

Rashid urges people to vote wisely

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Interior Nathir Rashid on Monday called on Jordanians to exercise their right on the day of elections in order to turn out a parliament which "we pride ourselves with." Speaking on a programme called "Aqlam wa Ara'a," Mr. Rashid said that people should elect those who really represent them. He said: "We in Jordan have qualified persons who can adhere to their responsibilities and represent their voters, so I urge Jordanians to elect those whom they trust and believe will address their causes."

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Israel splashes out to protect ambassadors

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — The Israeli Foreign Ministry has decided to spend \$3 million on armoured-plated limousines for 10 of its most high-profile ambassadors abroad, the Yediot Aharonot daily reported Monday. A Foreign Ministry source told the paper the cars, which cost \$300,000 apiece, would be given to diplomats in "sensitive" postings such as Amman and Cairo, as well as those in posts considered to be dangerous. "The security of diplomats is the responsibility of the host country, but (internal security agency) Shin Bet decided that in certain cases that protection was not enough," the source told the paper.

Palestinian prisoners stricken by food poisoning

BETHLEHEM (AFP) — Around 20 Palestinian prisoners held at the Israeli prison of Nafha in the southern Negev Desert were stricken by a virulent bout of food poisoning on Monday, Palestinian officials said. "According to their families, they were laid low by vomiting and diarrhoea after they were taken to nearby Beer-sheva Hospital," Issa Karaka, chairman of the Palestinian Prisoners' Association, told AFP. A spokesman for the Israeli Prison Service denied the report. "We have no knowledge of this affair. However, last Wednesday five detainees at the Nafha Prison were affected and admitted for 24 hours to the prison infirmary where they recovered before being returned to their cells," he said.

Iraq to carry out census in mid-October

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq is to carry out a census on October 15 for the first time in a decade, the official newspaper Al Jumhuriya announced on Monday. According to official estimates, the population has climbed to more than 21 million people, from 16.2 million in the 1987 census. Around four million people live in Baghdad.

Gunmen fire at Israeli jeep in West Bank

BETHLEHEM (AFP) — Unidentified gunmen opened fire at an Israeli army jeep near the Palestinian town of Bethlehem in the West Bank late Sunday, military sources said. The shots caused no casualties or damage, they said. The army sealed off the area and imposed a curfew on the nearby Palestinian village of Al Khader. Palestinian sources said.

Hamas commando recaptured after jail break

HEBRON (AFP) — A member of Hamas accused of anti-Israeli attacks that left 11 people dead was recaptured Monday after four days on the run, Palestinian sources said. Ibrahim Ghaneimat, 35, who escaped on Thursday from a Palestinian prison in the West Bank city of Hebron in circumstances which remain unclear, was picked up by members of the Preventative Security Service, said the sources. Ghaneimat was originally arrested by Palestinian police in April after a Hamas cell was dismantled in the village of Surif near the West Bank town of Hebron. Three alleged members of the group are being held by Israel.

Israelis feel Netanyahu safer than Peres — poll

TEL AVIV (AFP) — A total of 41.5 per cent of Israelis feel safer under the leadership of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu than under his predecessor Shimon Peres, according to a poll published Monday. The survey was published in the Jerusalem Post daily and carried out by the Modi'in Ezrachi Institute last month. In a similar poll by the organisation in June last year, 28.9 per cent of Israelis said they believed their personal security had improved under Mr. Netanyahu.

Hungarian president says Jordan's role is vital, pivotal and stabilising

From Abdullah Hassanat in Budapest

EUROPEAN CONTRIBUTION to security and stability in the Mediterranean region, the roles Jordan and Hungary can play in furthering that goal and in acting as a bridge between Europe and the Middle East were the recurring themes of HRH Crown Prince Hassan's talks with Hungarian leaders and his exchange with ambassadors of Arab and Muslim countries here.

Winding up a tour that took him to Turkey, the U.S., the U.K. and Switzerland, the Crown Prince emphasised in his talks with Hungarian leaders the need for "like-minded" Jordan and Hungary to push for a greater European role in the Middle East and Mediterranean region and to use its office as an active member of the Organisation of Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and its future membership in the European Union (EU) and North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) to help advance the cause of peace and development in Western Asia and North Africa.

In his talks with President Arpad Goncz and other officials, the Crown Prince explained Jordanian positions on the peace process, Jerusalem and Israeli settlements, and Jordan's vision of a new region where countries and peoples live at peace, an official source said.

According to the source, the president expressed his country's interest in the development of the region and described Jordan's role in the peace process as vital, pivotal and stabilising. Mr. Goncz said that



Crown Prince Hassan chats with Hungarian President Arpad Goncz in the parliament building, in Budapest, Monday, prior to their talks. Prince Hassan arrived Sunday in Budapest for a three-day visit to Hungary (AFP photo)

Jordan was an essential partner in the search for peace and in peace-building in the Middle East.

According to the source, the president pledged to activate with vigour the political, economic and cultural agreements that the two countries have signed in the past.

The Crown Prince, in his talks with the president, and later with parliament speaker and trade representatives said Jordan was committed to furthering peace in the broader region that includes Iran, Iraq, the Gulf and Turkey.

Furthermore, and in regard to the "core countries" of the region, Jordan, Israel, Egypt, Lebanon, Syria and the Palestinian territories,

(Continued on page 7)

Region on rebound after centuries in abeyance — Prince Hassan

BUDAPEST — HRH Crown Prince Hassan Monday recalled history to advance the thesis that a common identity has emerged in the Mediterranean region promising a brighter future for all the peoples on the shores of the great sea.

Addressing an August gathering of 1,500 scholars from 70 countries in Asia, Europe, North Africa and the Middle East, the Crown Prince said that the "trans-regional, collaborative culture that was the defining feature of the Mediterranean civilisation in the

eight to the sixteenth century... is (now) on the rebound after centuries in the abeyance."

Delivering the opening address at the 35th International Congress of Asian and North African Studies (ICANAS) Prince Hassan urged the scholars to use the lessons of history for the forging of a better future for humanity.

"None of us can change history," he said. "But we can, and we must, use the lessons of the past to reinvigorate the present for the

(Continued on page 7)

Netanyahu faces yet another Knesset no-confidence vote

TEL AVIV (AP) — A day before another no-confidence motion against him in the Knesset, Benjamin Netanyahu encountered new trouble as a key religious leader suggested in comments broadcast Sunday that the prime minister was "not so suited."

Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, leader of the Shas Party which is critical to Mr. Netanyahu's shaky parliament majority, said in his weekly sermon Saturday that only if the Jews were worthy would God "put brains in the heads of our leaders."

"That's the way it is with Bibi Netanyahu," he said, referring to the premier by his nickname. "If the government is headed by one who is not so suited, it is our fault, not his."

The annual comments, broadcast on Israel TV Sunday, seemed to confirm reports that Rabbi Yosef's support for Mr. Netanyahu was wavering and added to a growing list of political headaches for the premier.

Parliament is to vote Monday afternoon on a no-confidence vote brought by the opposition Labour and Meretz parties to protest stalled peace talks and confrontations with the Palestinians.

Mr. Netanyahu controls 66 seats in the 120-member chamber, and an absolute majority of 61 votes is needed to bring down the government. Two weeks ago, legislators rejected a similar motion by a 55-50 vote — but 11 members of Mr. Netanyahu's coalition skipped the balloting to show their displeasure with him.

If Shas bolted with its 10 seats Mr. Netanyahu would fall — but this seemed unlikely to occur Monday, Israeli Radio said. Mr. Netanyahu after the TV report to assure him he still supported the government.

(Continued on page 7)

Israel's premier names other finance minister than Sharon

TEL AVIV (AP) — In hopes of ending a political crisis, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu Monday appointed his former justice minister, Yaakov Neeman, to take over the finance ministry.

The crisis began last month when Finance Minister Dan Meridor resigned over a policy dispute with the prime minister and said he no longer had faith in Mr. Netanyahu.

The top candidate for Mr. Meridor's post became Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon, who said he

would take over the treasury if Mr. Netanyahu would bring him into a small circle of ministers who set policy in the peace negotiations with the Palestinians.

This, in turn, angered Foreign Minister David Levy who said the negotiations were part of his portfolio and that other ministers, including Mr. Sharon, should not be involved in the decisions.

Mr. Netanyahu then turned to Mr. Neeman as a compromise candidate. Israeli media said Mr.

Neeman rejected the offer until a meeting with Mr. Netanyahu Sunday night. Mr. David Ben-Zion, Netanyahu's senior aide, said Mr. Neeman accepted the offer. Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav called Mr. Neeman's appointment "a good decision."

Mr. Neeman, a religious Jew, had been the choice of Mr. Netanyahu's orthodox coalition partners who holds 23 of the government's 66 seats in parliament.

(Continued on page 7)

Israel eases criteria for Palestinian day labourers

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — In a slight easing of the closure, Israel Monday lowered from 27 to 25 the minimum age for married Palestinian workers from the Gaza Strip eligible to work in Israel.

The change is intended to help fill the quota for Gaza labourers employed in Israel, said Shlomo Dror, a spokesman for the government's chief liaison office with the Palestinians.

The quota allows for 35,000 workers, but only 24,000 Gazans have been seeking work permits so far, Mr. Dror said. Some 35,000 Palestinians from the West Bank also work in Israel, most in day jobs in agriculture and construction.

Israel is also increasing by 1,000 the number of merchants and Palestinian officials eligible for entry permits to Israel, Mr. Dror said.

The more than 2 million Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza Strip have not been able to enter Israel

freely since after the 1991 Gulf war. Palestinians who want to visit Israel, including Jerusalem, need special permits.

Since 1993, Israel has also sealed the Palestinian areas completely for extended periods to prevent attacks by Palestinian militants. Each day of full closure cost the fledgling Palestinian economy some \$4.4 million a day, according to U.N. estimates.

Ankara lifts ban on trade with Baghdad

ANKARA (AFP) — Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit announced Monday the lifting of a ban on border trade with Iraq imposed after its 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

"The ban on border trade in the southeast has been lifted," Mr. Ecevit told a meeting of his Democratic Left Party. He did not elaborate.

Although he did not mention Iraq by name, the deputy premier was clearly referring to Baghdad. Turkey has imposed no restrictions on trade with its two other southeastern neighbours, Iran and Syria.

Mr. Ecevit did not say if the government's move constituted a violation of a

Iraq says it is time for Arabs to bust sanctions

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq called Monday for fellow Arab states to turn their words of sympathy for the sufferings of the Iraqi people into action by breaking the seven-year-old U.N. sanctions.

"We believe support for the Iraqi people should not be limited to declarations of sympathy. Arab countries must act by breaking the embargo," said the daily Al Thawra of the ruling Baath Party.

It called for the Arabs "to raise their voice to point out that the reasons for the imposition of sanctions on Iraq no longer exist."

The United Nations imposed the sanctions after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait on August 2, 1990. An embargo on Baghdad's lifeline oil exports cannot be lifted until the country has been stripped of its weapons of mass destruction.

U.N.-sponsored trade embargo imposed on Iraq since August 1990. Turkey has complained that it has lost over \$30 bil-

lion in lost trade with Iraq, which had been Ankara's

(Continued on page 7)

Palestinians keep up campaign against West Bank land dealers

GAZA CITY (AFP) — The Palestinian National Authority (PNA) is keeping up its campaign against Palestinians who sell Arab land to Jews and has now arrested a total of 22 people, Palestinian Justice Minister Freih Abu Middein said Monday.

"We are continuing our campaign because we will never allow anybody to give up our land to Jewish settlers. We are holding 22 suspects" who will soon be brought to trial, Mr. Mid-

dein told AFP. "Most of the suspects being detained fabricated false powers of attorney supposedly sent by Palestinians living abroad, especially those in Latin America, or false identity documents in the name of the real owners," he said.

Mr. Middein caused outrage in Israel in May when he announced that any Palestinian land dealers selling land to Israelis would be subject to the death sentence under an old Jordanian law.

Shortly afterwards three Palestinians accused of selling land to Jews were found murdered.

Palestinians see the sales as treason as the land, which the PNA wants as part of a future state, will be turned into Jewish settlements.

Israel has blamed President Yasser Arafat's PNA for the murders and has charged six Palestinian intelligence agents for the attempted kidnapping of a man suspected of involvement in such sales.

Lebanese guerrillas fire rockets into Israel

SIDON (AFP) — Guerrillas in south Lebanon fired at least seven Katyusha rockets into northern Israel on Sunday after five Lebanese civilians were wounded by Israeli shelling, security sources said.

The rockets, fired by unidentified guerrillas at 22:20 p.m., landed in the region of Naharayia in northern Israel, they said.

In Israel, military sources reported several explosions in the border region but said they caused no casualties or damage.

They said that either mortar shells or rockets were fired at positions of Israeli forces occupying a buffer zone in south Lebanon and that some may have landed in Israeli territory.

Two more Lebanese civilians, Serban Tabaja and Mohammad Ali Beshir, were wounded by Israeli retaliatory shelling on the village of Kfar Tehnit in south Lebanon, Lebanese security sources said.

The Iranian-backed Hizbollah said its guerrillas fired Katyusha rockets at Israeli posts in Biat, Zafateh and Birkat Richa in the Israeli-held border zone but did not claim responsibility for the cross-border attack.

"The attacks are in response to harming our

(Continued on page 7)

Jordan-Kuwait Bank general assembly meetings cancelled over irregularities

AMMAN (J.T.) — A dispute over the validity of authorisations lead to the cancellation of both the regular and extraordinary general assembly meetings of the Jordan-Kuwait Bank scheduled Sunday night.

The withdrawal of the group headed by Tawfiq Fakhoury, the chairman of the board of directors at the Bank of Jordan, which owns 35 per cent of the Jordan-Kuwait Bank, resulted in an incomplete quorum.

Sufian Sartawi, chairman of the board of directors of the Jordan-Kuwait Bank said that the authorisations

in question were illegal, written by hand and the bank's administration did not issue invitations to attend the general assembly meeting in this manner.

Mr. Sartawi added that these authorisations had been withheld by the Companies Comptroller at the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

In return, Mr. Fakhoury said that the handwritten authorisations submitted to the Companies Comptroller's representatives prior to the general assembly's meeting were legal since they carried real signatures

and accurate shareholder numbers and that there was nothing wrong with the fact that they were handwritten.

Mr. Fakhoury added that there was an invitation to two meetings which were to be held on June 18, but the preparatory procedures for both meetings, including the distribution of invitations to shareholders were illegal and a large number of invitations had not been sent out, and the [Jordan-Kuwait] bank did not have a large number of shareholders' proper addresses.

(Continued on page 7)



STANDING TRIAL FOR ALL THE OTHER REASONS: Japanese Red Army members, from left to right: Massao Adashi, Huroo Wako, Kozo Okamoto (hidden) and Kazuo Tohira, appear through the gate window of a Lebanese courtroom during their hearing in Beirut, Monday. The Japanese Red Army members arrested for forgery charges are facing a sentence of at least seven years in jail. The justice palace was heavily guarded and photographers were banned from taking pictures in the courtroom (see story on page 12) (AFP photo)

Iraq closes anti-Syrian radio station in bid for closer ties

CAIRO (AP) — Iraq has shut down a radio station run by Syrian dissidents in another step toward reconciliation with Damascus, the London-based Al Hayat newspaper reported Monday.

"Voice of Arab Syria," which was critical of the regime of Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, was silenced two weeks ago "in a positive initiative towards the Syrians," Al Hayat said. The paper quoted

unnamed Iraqi opposition officials in Damascus.

The opposition officials also told Al Hayat that Syria continued to allow the anti-Iraqi "Voice of Iraq broadcast" to operate. But its programmes "have become more general and less critical," they said.

Iraq and Syria are ruled by rival factions of the Arab Baath Party.

Iraq's move against the radio station followed the June 14 opening of three

border crossing points between the two countries.

The frontier had been closed since 1980, when Iraq severed relations after Damascus backed Iran in the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war.

Relations worsened in 1991 when Syria sent troops to join the U.S.-led coalition that ended Iraq's seven-month occupation of Kuwait.

In recent weeks, business delegations from Iraq and Syria have exchanged visits.

Iranian nuclear power plant to launch operations soon

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran said Monday that one production unit at its Russian-built nuclear reactor at the southern Iranian port city of Bushehr will begin operations soon.

"The first unit will come into service soon to produce some 1,000 megawatts of electricity," Iranian Atomic Energy Organisation Vice-President Reza Amrollahi told Tehran Radio, but did not elaborate.

The \$800 million nuclear power plant is fiercely opposed by the United States, which charges it could be

used for military purposes.

However, Mr. Amrollahi said the reactor was for "peaceful purposes" and he has written a letter to the International Atomic Energy Agency criticising Washington over its recent nuclear test in the Nevada Desert, the radio said.

The U.S. Department of Energy said the underground test last Wednesday was the first in a series of tests to manage the country's ageing nuclear weapons.

Last week Iran and Russia signed an accord on control and safety procedures to meet

international standards for the Bushehr reactor.

Construction of the plant has been slow and the Iranian parliament has opened an investigation into the difficulties.

Building began in 1975 by the German group Siemens, which withdrew after the 1979 Islamic revolution in Iran toppled the U.S.-backed Shah.

After the signing of an accord in 1995, the project was resumed by Russia, which is to provide two water-pressure nuclear reactors.

Lebanon truce committee meets

NAGOURA (AFP) — The International Committee monitoring the ceasefire agreement in southern Lebanon met Monday to hear truce violation complaints by Lebanon and Israeli officials said.

The five-nation committee convened at the headquarters of the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) in the border

town of Nagoura, the Lebanese officials told AFP.

The committee is due to discuss a Lebanese complaint over the wounding of seven Lebanese civilians, including a seven-year-old boy and a teenager, in an Israeli bombardment of southern Lebanon Sunday.

The Israeli shelling came in response to the killing of an Israeli army officer in an ambush by guerrillas of the Iranian-backed Hizbollah guerrilla group inside the Israeli-occupied border zone of south Lebanon.

The truce panel was also due to hear an Israeli protest lodged after unidentified guerrillas in southern Lebanon fired at least seven Katyusha rockets into northern Israel also Sunday.

Yilmaz vows to clamp down on Islamist schools in Turkey

ANKARA (AFP) — Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz pledged Monday to close down hundreds of state-run Islamic schools under a controversial education reform backed by Turkey's pro-secular armed forces.

"The education reform will be put into effect," Mr. Yilmaz said as he read his new government's programme in a televised speech in parliament.

The draft reform bill, under which the state-run secondary schools with Islamic education will be closed, was a major bone of contention between the powerful army and the previous Islamist-led government, headed by Welfare Party leader Necmettin Erbakan.

Refusing to endorse the bill, Mr. Erbakan stepped down on June 18 under heavy pressure by the military and was replaced by Mr. Yilmaz, who announced the formation of a secular coalition government of three parties on June 30.

Mr. Yilmaz, who now commands a clear majority in the 550-seat parliament having persuaded a number of deputies to defect from the outgoing

coalition, is expected to win a confidence vote on Saturday.

The new prime minister also pledged to improve economic and social conditions in the mainly Kurdish-populated southeast, scene of a violent separatist insurgency.

"Our government will introduce new economic and social programmes to improve the living conditions in the southeast ... We will also continue with the fight against separatist terrorism with determination," Mr. Yilmaz said.

During his ill-fated premiership in March of last year, Mr. Yilmaz promised a similar package of measures for the troubled region, but the plan came to naught as his fragile coalition collapsed three months later.

He said he would take measures to improve Turkey's widely criticised human rights record, but did not elaborate.

More than 25,000 people have been killed in violence in the southeast since 1984 when the outlawed Kurdish Labour Party, or PKK, launched its armed campaign for a Kurdish homeland.

Mr. Yilmaz said his government would intensify efforts to secure membership of the European Union.

Turkey, which has a customs agreement with the union granting it privileged trading status, is on the waiting list with 12 other countries seeking to join the union.

But the weakness of its economy, rifts with EU-member Greece and a poor human rights record make an early entry into the European Union unlikely, say observers.

On defence, Mr. Yilmaz said that due to Turkey's unique location in the centre of volatile regions like the Middle East, the Balkans and the Caucasus, Ankara would not reduce military spending in the near future.

Turkey is to spend \$3.1 billion on weapons systems and other military equipment this year.

Mr. Yilmaz also pledged to step up privatisation of state-run companies and banks, with his aides saying that the new government's objective would be to raise four billion dollars from this year's sales.

Algerian FIS leader goes on trial

PARIS (R) — Islamist leader Abdelkader Hachani goes on trial in Algeria on Monday on charges of trying to undermine state security, after more than five years of detention without trial, Algerian newspapers said.

Mr. Hachani led the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) to a landslide first-round victory in a general election in 1991. The authorities cancelled the ballot in January 1992, sparking violence in which about 60,000 people have died.

The former oil engineer

took over the FIS leadership temporarily after party President Abbassi Madani and his Deputy Ali Belhadj were arrested, six months before the election.

They were tried on charges of subversion and each sentenced in July 1992 to 12 years imprisonment.

Algerian newspapers said Mr. Hachani would be tried in Algiers criminal court along with three journalists from the Al Khabar newspaper which published a statement from Mr. Hachani calling on members of the military to disobey orders from officers to

act against Islamist militants.

Mr. Hachani was arrested in January 1992 after the publication and was taken to Sirkadij High Security Prison near the Casbah, the ancient heart of old Algiers. Shortly afterwards, the FIS was outlawed.

Last week, the FIS executive in exile said in a statement that Mr. Hachani should be released. "This would certainly contribute to an easing of tensions required to promote the necessary climate for a return to peace and stability," the statement said.

UAE drafts anti-laundering law

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has drafted its first anti-laundering law following a surge in such illegal activity worldwide and drug smuggling in the oil-rich Gulf country.

The law, published in the local daily Al Bayan on Monday, is part of major reforms planned in the financial sector in a drive to forestall any malpractice and prevent a repetition of fresh banking crises.

"We have been informed of those new laws and we think they will further consolidate the banking sector," a UAE bank manager said.

The new regulations have been drafted by the Central Bank, which presented them to a special cabinet committee ahead of their official endorsement.

It was the first time that banking laws in the UAE

include a section about money laundering, which would make the emirates the first Gulf state to have well-defined legislations on such narcotic-dominated activity.

The new law authorised the Central Bank to take any measures to combat laundering, including greater access to the bank files.

It also warned bank staff who violate the bank's secrecy or its trust in them, and any person providing relevant information will have immunity against prosecution.

"The Central Bank has the right to take any decisions and give instructions to the competent parties regarding the necessary measures to be taken concerning the activities associated with money laundering," the law said.

UAE police officials have repeatedly called for enactment of laws to fight money

laundering after a surge in such operations worldwide.

It was not clear whether the new laws have been prompted by any laundering activity in the UAE but the country, a major regional financial and commercial centre, has been hit by increasing narcotic-trafficking operations.

Most of them originated from Pakistan and Iran, which are key narcotic supply sources.

"The UAE needs such laws to prevent illegal activities by its banks given its large number of banks and foreign workers," a UAE banker said.

The UAE has 47 banks, including 28 foreign units. They have more than 300 branches although it has a relatively small population of 2.3 million, including nearly 1.5 million Asians and other expatriates.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Saudi advisory council starts new term with 90 members

RIYADH (AP) — Saudi Arabia's Advisory Consultative Council started its second term on Monday with 60 new members. The names of the new members, mainly professional men and retired army officers, were announced Sunday. Saudi Arabia expanded the council, or Majlis Al-Shura, to 90 members from 60, and half of the council's previous members were replaced. The council's speaker, Sheikh Mohammed Ben Jubair, and Deputy Abdullah Naseef, retained their posts. The all-male council was set up in 1993, and its members are appointed by King Fahd. It doesn't have legislative powers but makes recommendations to the king for possible action. Of the six Gulf Arab nations, only Kuwait has an elected parliament. The United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar and Bahrain all have appointed advisory councils like Saudi Arabia.

Egypt to deport 22 foreign women illegally in country

CAIRO (AP) — Twenty-two African and Asian women, most of whom worked as maids, are to be deported for being in the country illegally, Egyptian authorities said Monday. The women were rounded up Sunday and are to be deported within the next 48 hours, according to police and immigration officials. Police have launched a crackdown against illegal women residents, and a total of 213 have been deported in recent months. Most entered the country legally, generally to serve as domestic help for wealthy Egyptian families or foreign businessmen. But some overstayed their visas, taking jobs the government wants for Egyptians or working as prostitutes. The 22 women to be deported include seven Ethiopians as well as Indian, Philippines and Sri Lanka nationals.

Iraq and Sudan sign oil agreement — papers

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq and Sudan have signed minutes to follow up the implementation of a joint oil agreement, Iraqi newspapers said on Monday. They said the pact focused on exploration, establishment of refineries and training of Sudanese experts in the Iraqi oil industry. "Iraqi Oil Minister Amir Muhammad Rasheed and the (visiting) Sudanese Energy and Mining Minister Ewadh Ahmed Jaz signed the agreement," the government newspaper Al Jumhuriya said. The paper gave no details but said the signing ceremony was attended by the newly appointed chairman of the Military Industrialisation Commission, Abdulwahab Mulhawish, and Undersecretary of Oil Taha Mahmoud. Mr. Jaz met President Saddam Hussein Saturday and handed him a message from Sudanese leader General Umar Hassan Basher. Iraq is banned from exporting its oil under United Nations sanctions imposed after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait. Under a deal signed with the U.N., Iraq has been allowed since December to sell \$2 billion worth of oil over six months to raise money to satisfy Iraqis' urgent needs. Sudan sympathised with Iraq in the U.S.-led Gulf war which drove Iraqi troops out of Kuwait.

Sudan motorway pile-up kills 62

KHARTOUM (AFP) — Sixty-two people were killed and 30 seriously hurt in a highway pile-up south of Khartoum, Sudanese state-run television reported late Sunday. It said a pick-up truck tried to overtake another car, near Kamlin, about 95 kilometres southeast of here, but collided with a passenger bus and a lorry travelling in the opposite direction. The truck and the bus caught fire, according to a witness, who said local people tried to put out the blaze with dust and water, knowing there was no fire station in the area. Seven people were pulled from the blazing bus. Of the dead, 16 were children. There was no immediate clarification as to how many people were in each of the vehicles. Major General Al Hussein Abdul Karim, Sudan's state minister of roads and communications, who went to the scene, blamed "irresponsible driving" for the accident, which the television said was the worst in 10 years.

Egyptian press attacks Netanyahu's peace 'of pigs and cows'

CAIRO (AFP) — Egypt's press on Monday launched a violent attack on Israel over a series of incidents defaming religious figures and accused Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of seeking "peace of cows and pigs." "One of the stupidest of Netanyahu's many acts of idiocy is his decision not to resume peace negotiations until the Palestinians cease their violence," wrote Said Sonbol, editorialist with government newspaper Al Akhbar. "What peace is Netanyahu speaking of? The peace of cows or the peace of pigs?" Mr. Sonbol said, in an allusion to posters plastered by Jewish extremists in the West Bank town of Hebron depicting the Muslim prophet as a pig and a magazine photo-montage of the Virgin Mary with a cow.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel. 773111-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
15:35	French Programmes
16:00	Super Sport Folie
16:30	Drug House
17:00	Square One TV
17:15	Album Show
18:00	French Programmes
19:00	News in French
19:30	News Headline
19:35	Coach
20:00	Tilt
20:30	Encounter
21:10	Nature of Things
22:00	News in English
22:30	West Beach
23:15	Drug Wars

PRAYER TIMES	
03:58	Fajr
05:32	(Sunrise) Duha
12:41	Dhuhr
16:21	Asr
19:50	Maghreb
21:23	Isha

CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church	Sweifeh, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church	Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	Church of the Annunciation

Tel. 637440.	De la Salle Church Tel. 616757.
Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366	Anglican Church Tel. 652826.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.	Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.	Amman International Church Tel. 5516245
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328.	German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932.	Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691.
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295	English-speaking Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614190.

WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology	

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
Relative warm weather conditions will prevail with temperatures slightly higher than average and winds northwesterly moderate. On Wednesday, temperatures are expected to drop becoming around average. In Aqaba, it will be hot, winds northerly moderate and seas calm.	
Amman	21/34
Aqaba	26/41
Deserts	20/37
Jordan Valley	25/41
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 33, Aqaba 40 Humidity readings: Amman 30 per cent, Aqaba 25 per cent.	

NIGHT DUTY AMMAN:	
Dr. Hanna Mansour	750197
Dr. Afif Shalabi	838863
Dr. Khalil Ramadan	774397
Dr. Sa'ad Tawfik	782235

Ferdows pharmacy	778336
Al Asena pharmacy	637055
Al Saham pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shmeisani pharmacy	637660
Nairoukh pharmacy	623672
Najib pharmacy	847632
IRBID:	
Dr. Ahmad Qam	281484
Dr. Quds pharmacy	(-)
ZARQA:	
Dr. Rafiq Atallah	994424
Khalifeh pharmacy	985417
EMERGENCIES	
Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Dept.	661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue	650341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
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Traffic Police	896390
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Hotel Complaints	605800
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plaints	897467
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Telephone Information (directory assistance)	121
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Central Amman Telephone Repairs	623101
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Shmeisani Hospital	669131
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Al-Musashir Hospital	6672279
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Italian, Al-Mohajreen	777101/3
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Zarqa National Hospital	09/900560
Bn Sina Hospital	09/986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital	09/980990
IRBID:	
Princess Basma Hospital	02/275555
Greek Catholic Hospital	02/272275
Ibn Al Nafes Hospital	02/247100

QUEEN ALIA AIRPORT ARRIVALS	



TRH Prince Abdullah Ben Al Hussein, the Regent, Prince Faisal Ben Al Hussein, Prince Hamzeh Ben Al Hussein, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid, Prince Zeid Ben Shaker, Prince Ali Ben Nayef and Imam of the Royal Court Ahmad Helayel Monday visit the tomb of the late King Talal Ben Abdullah on the 25th anniversary of his death. They recited verses of the Holy Koran and laid wreaths by the tomb (Petra photo)

'Israel not committing to peace agreements' — visiting European MP

AMMAN (Petra) — Visiting European Parliament member Magda Aelvoet Monday said she was convinced that Israel was not committing itself to the implementation of agreements it has signed with the Arab parties in the Middle East peace process.

head of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Senate Thouqan Hindawi and Head of the Arab and International Affairs Committee of the Lower House Fawzi Toumeih, Ms. Aelvoet described the peace process as an integrated activity whose effects are far-reaching.

Mr. Hindawi told Ms. Aelvoet, who started a five-day working visit to Jordan on Saturday, that the European role is vital to the success of the peace process and important in overcoming obstacles placed by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his ruling Likud Party.

requested that Europe exert pressure on Israel that the latter comply with the requirements of the peace process and added that the United States ought to be fair and unbiased in its role. He outlined the Kingdom's parliamentary and democratic life as well as its current implementation of economic reforms.

First Kuwaiti plane to land in Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — The first Kuwait Airways Corporation (KAC) plane will land in Amman tomorrow, following an agreement signed between Kuwait and Jordan last month. The two countries resolved that their national air carriers might resume scheduled flights following a hiatus of seven years.

Jordanian researcher wins TWAS prize

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordanian researcher Ahmad Rehayel won the 1996 Third World Academy of Science (TWAS) prize in honour of a research paper entitled "Elliptic Surfaces in Mathematics." The \$2,000-prize was presented at a special ceremony held at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) and is annually conferred by the Italy-based TWAS, onto persons from the Third World who effect remarkable achievements in scientific research.

International forum covers women's political, domestic empowerment in the Arab World

By Rana Hussein
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Arab women from eight countries gathered Monday to exchange experiences and discuss various means of strengthening women's participation in political and domestic forums.

In the four-day seminar, approximately 25 women from various sectors of Arab societies will present reports related to Arab women's participation in parliamentary elections, political party involvement, civic issues, as well as those encouraging women to enter politics in the Arab World.

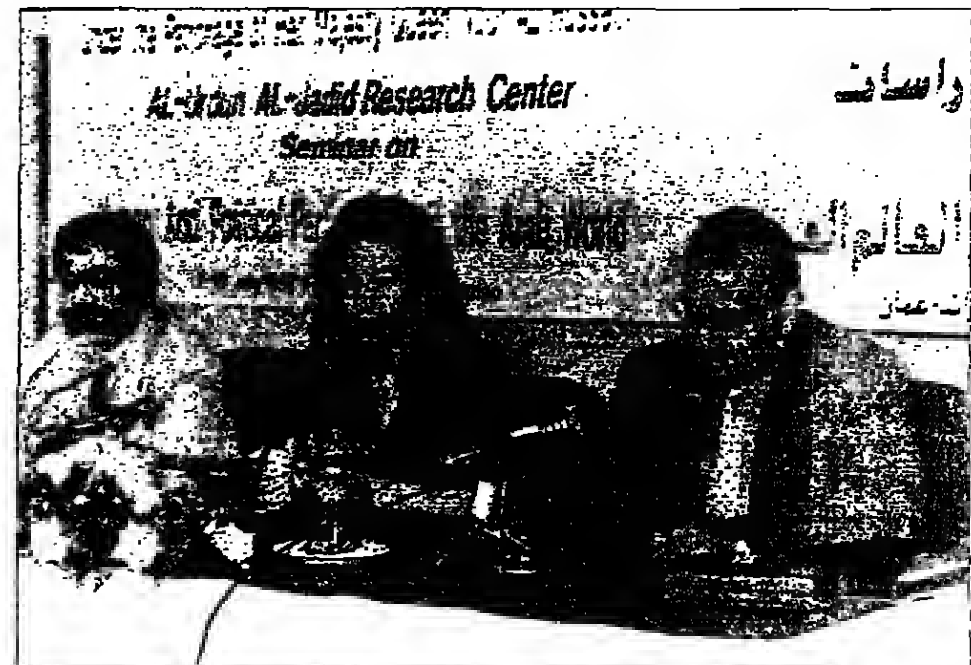
During the opening ceremony, Director General of Al Urdun Al Jadid Research Centre (UJRC) Hani Hourani maintained that "women in the Arab World have a joint problem which concerns their political participation and daily lives."

"Arab women's participation in political life is modest, yet, we have to admit that women have field and practical experience in political participation," Mr. Hourani said. "We must take advantage [of that experience] to study their participation in their individual societies."

According to the director general, 22 papers will be presented in the seminar to reflect recent experiences and issues concerning Arab women's participation in political life.

Topics will include field studies, statistics, and parliamentary elections participation, he added.

The event, organised by Al Urdun Al Jadid Research Centre (UJRC) in cooperation with the Ford Foundation, was inaugurated



HRH Princess Ghida Talal, flanked by Ford Foundation Representative Salim Nasr and Director General of Al Urdun Al Jadid Research Centre (UJRC) Hani Hourani attend opening seminar of a four-day international forum covering various means of strengthening women's participation in political and domestic forums (Petra photo)

ed by HRH Princess Ghida Talal, who deputised for Her Majesty Queen Noor. Saleem Nasr of the Ford Foundation explained that the seminar is regional as it combines social, political and scientific aspects, "and facilitates practical exchanges, analysis, determination, reviews of the past and plans for the future."

During the morning session, participants discussed a paper entitled "Towards a new vision to highlight Arab women's political participation," presented by Ishaq Jad, of Beirut University, in Palestine.

In her paper, Dr. Jad expostulates Arab women's groups' criticism of a male-dominated society as well as their demands to reconsider commonly accepted beliefs in institutes therein.

Member of the Yemeni House of Representatives

Oras Sultan Najji, presented a paper on her experience in the last Yemeni elections in which she reviewed campaign procedures, she used to secure herself a seat in the Yemeni parliament.

Three papers were presented by Egyptian professors during the evening session. They were entitled: "Political attitudes and values of Egyptian women," presented by Salwa Sha'rawi, of the American University in Cairo; "Egyptian women and political participation," prepared by Niven Mass'ad, from Cairo University; and "Intervention on Egyptian women's political participation."

The papers focused on the standards and position of Egyptian women, a general view of Egyptian women's participation in political life, and the role of

women as parliamentarians and party members. Participants hail from Lebanon, Palestine, Yemen, Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco and Jordan. Contributing researchers are visiting from Norway, Sweden and the United States.

Today, participants will discuss seven reports covering women in parliamentary elections, women and political parties, women's participation in the institutions of the Palestinian National Authority, experience in the Palestinian elections and the legislative assembly.

The evening session will include topics on the political trends of Jordanian women and their participation in the public sphere, decision-making and political experience.

The seminar is convening at the Forte Grand Hotel.

Fire engulfs fabric store in Ras Al Ain

AMMAN (J.T.) — A fire early Monday engulfed a large fabric store, located in the Ras Al Ain district of Amman, and caused heavy losses, according to a Civil Defence Department (CDD) spokesman.

The fire raged for seven hours after its discovery at three in the morning and consumed highly flammable materials and fabric.

CDD fire engines from Amman, Zarqa and Madaba joined in fighting the fire which, apparently started in the basement and spread quickly to higher floors of the building, according to the official.

The CDD is conducting an investigation into the incident to ascertain the exact causes of the fire, he added.

The CDD official requested that both the public as well as companies refrain from entering any newly-constructed



CDD fire fighters assist man while fighting blaze in the Ras Al Ain district of Amman (Petra photo)

building without prior approval. Strict adherence to CDD instructions regarding

safety precautions is also recommended, he added. HRH Prince Ali Ben Al Hussein supervised fire

fighting operations while CDD director Theeb Maani directed work. No casualties were reported.

WHAT'S GOING ON

LECTURE

"Minimism: Important Resources and Documents of History" by Dr. Khalaf Tarawneh (in Arabic) at the Friends of Archaeology Centre at 6:30 p.m. (Tel. 696682)

EXHIBITIONS

"Photography exhibition by Jean Kassey, at the French Cultural Centre, Tabal, Amman, until July 29." "Paintings by Ali Al Qasbi at Greater Amman Municipality Cultural Department, Ras Al Ain, until July 31."

"Silver Jewelry exhibition" at the Jordan Design and Trade Centre, of Noor Al Hussein Foundation, until July 20.

"Karam Rabin's works" at the Orient Gallery, until July 10.

"Paintings by contemporary Iraqi artists entitled 'Ecology and Environment' at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, until July 12 (except Tuesdays)." "Contemporary Arab Artists Exhibition" at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, until July 12 (except Tuesdays).

Wadi Rum potential backdrop to adult adventure TV programme

By Hind-Lara Mango
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A leading French producer of televised adult adventure games is looking at Wadi Rum as a potential location for its next series of games.

"We would like to create a new series of programmes based in Wadi Rum. This new game will be called Desert Forges," says Brice Auboyneau, production director of the Expand Images Group (EIG).

Examples of earlier EIG productions are "Fort Boyard," "Treasure Hunt," and "La Carte aux Trésors."

Television audiences in the Kingdom are more familiar with "Fort Boyard" as it has been aired on Jordan Television's Channel 2.

More than 450 episodes have been made of "Fort Boyard" and it has been broadcast in 53 countries over the past eight years.

Jordan was selected among four countries in Africa and the Middle East due to the presence of Wadi Rum.

Set designer Marc Demize believes that Wadi Rum provides a splendid backdrop for the games. In building the forge itself, Mr. Demize says he will use materials and colours to give an authentic impression blending in with the landscape of Wadi Rum.

"The forge will have to look like a natural extension of Wadi Rum," Mr. Demize explains.

All the games follow a basic pattern — only the settings change to offer new challenges, he added.

In Desert Forges four contestants, two women and two men, will compete against each other.

"It is not only a physical endurance test, but also an intellectual one," according to Pierre Fortolaro, artistic director.

He explains that these games are set at two levels: Physical endurance and intel-

lectual processes. Unlike previous shows, this programme will concentrate to a great extent, on the intellectual aspect of the games.

As in previous shows, contestants will include celebrities such as Olympic champions and singers ranging between 20 to 33 years of age.

The desert background to the games will incorporate an added sense of mystery and danger, the producers say. "It is essential to make the audience feel that they are living an adventure."

The environment of Wadi Rum is just what we were looking for: a mixture of the mythical and the symbolic," Mr. Fortolaro maintains.

Mr. Demize explains that such games would be unsuccessful if they were to take place in a studio.

"These games involve a lot of effort and exertion on the part of the contestants, we would not want a wall crashing down on them as they attempted to climb it," Mr. Demize asserted.

It is believed that this series could take up to five years to complete in Jordan, including six to nine months to construct the set alone.

"We want to work with a Jordanian team," Mr. Auboyneau emphasised. "We will be approximately 150 people on the set and look forward to interacting with Jordanians."

The team has already met with Minister of Tourism and Antiquities, Akel Biltaji, who has given them his full support.

Mr. Biltaji described the project as an excellent opportunity for Jordan.

"We should ensure the realisation of this project," he told the Jordan Times.

Magazine to focus on Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — As a complement to the Jordan Season in Paris, the next issue of the Institut Du Monde Arabe's quarterly magazine Qantara will feature articles on the Kingdom.

This 80-page magazine deals with the Arab and Mediterranean cultures through the writings of specialists on these regions.

According to Qantara's Editor-in-Chief François Zabbal, the issue on Jordan will offer readers something more than the archaeological exhibition inaugurated in June at the Institut.

Around 20,000 copies of Qantara will be distributed in Europe and the Arab World, Mr. Zabbal stated.

According to Mr. Zabbal, a wide range of subjects such as women, calligraphy and history are usually included under a general theme. The issue on Palestine, for instance, dealt with the arts, famous Palestinian figures, and history.

1.8 m pills seized in major drug bust

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Anti-Narcotics Department Monday confirmed its raid of a major drug trafficking operation, seizing 1.8 million pills with an estimated street value of \$14 million.

Department Director Colonel Nazih Shreideh told a press conference that the smugglers transported the pills from Turkey via Syria.

"We were tipped when the car left Turkey and entered Syria, and again when the vehicle entered Jordan," Col. Shreideh stated.

The smugglers hid the drugs in a house located in the northeastern part of the

Kingdom, he added. "Our department maintained close and constant watch over the house where the pills were hidden pending their transfer to a neighbouring country," he affirmed.

According to Col. Shreideh, department teams raided the house, arresting the owner and his wife and seized the drugs.

Police are now investigating others possibly involved in the case who he described as Jordanians with previous criminal records.

Jordan Television quoted Col. Shreideh as stating that between June 15 and

July 7, his department teams handled 24 drug trafficking cases and have arrested 67 suspects, both foreign and Jordanian, involved in such.

The department has received information that Artime drug pills are most commonly offered to youth in Zarqa, he stated.

"We have intensified our efforts and succeeded in arresting 15 suspects," Col. Shreideh maintained. "We have referred the group to court for trial."

The street value of one Artime drug pill is JD 8, he said.

Save water — every drop counts...

Police, rioters clash in N. Ireland

BELFAST (R) — Police and Roman Catholic rioters clashed across Northern Ireland Monday in a wave of violence prompted by a Protestant Orange Order march in the town of Portadown.

The display of firepower by the Irish Republican Army (IRA) in overnight unrest was the biggest in years and the outpouring of nationalist fury appeared to mark the end of any honeymoon with Britain's new Labour government.

A bomb was thrown at a Belfast police station and a 14-year-old boy was in critical condition in hospital after being hit on the head by a plastic bullet. Another 14-year-old boy suffered gunshot wounds to the shoulder. Dozens more were injured as the unrest spread.

Security forces and rioters traded gunfire in a night of rioting and unrest that dealt a serious blow to Northern Ireland's stalled peace process.

Unrest was reported in Belfast, Newry, Strabane,

Londonderry and Portadown.

Rioting followed a march through a Roman Catholic area of Portadown by the hardline pro-British Protestant Orange Order despite protests by Irish Nationalist residents.

Sinn Fein, the Irish Republican Army's political arm, denied it was responsible for provoking the unrest despite comments by one of its senior figures urging Catholics to take to the streets. "The events that we saw over the past 24 hours were provoked by the shameful decision of the British government to capitulate to the Orange Order's demands to march through nationalist areas where there is fear and trepidation at their presence," Sinn Fein Chairman Mitchel McLaughlin said.

"The Nationalist community have become stronger politically and numerically and the Unionists are afraid to negotiate or to manage the change," he said on BBC Radio.

David Trimble, leader of the pro-British Ulster Unionist Party, said the IRA had been planning violence.

"I think that came out very clearly last night, with the clearly prepared reaction that the IRA orchestrated throughout Northern Ireland."

In one of worst incidents, what was believed to be a hand-held blast bomb was thrown against the New Barnsley Police Station in north Belfast.

The explosion echoed around the city centre shortly after midnight as cars were hijacked and set on fire.

The IRA claimed responsibility in a statement to a news organisation for the shooting Sunday of a policeman in a police vehicle. She was hospitalised with facial injuries.

The IRA, which enjoys support among some sections of the 40 per cent Catholic minority, is fighting a 28-year war to end British rule of Northern Ireland.

The crackle of automatic gunfire was heard in various parts of the city throughout Sunday night and into the early hours of Monday morning.

Police said in one incident a volley of shots was fired at police patrol in the Crumlin area of Belfast.

In another, five high-velocity rounds were fired at police in the Springfields area of Catholic West Belfast, while 20 rounds were fired at police in the Nationalist Old Park area.

Police and ambulance sirens wailed intermittently across the Northern Ireland capital as security and rescue forces rushed from flashpoint to flashpoint, residents said.

Two "spy-in-the-sky" security force helicopters clattered over the capital keeping watch as the demonstrations spread from Catholic neighbourhoods around the city.

Youths burned hijacked cars to draw in police and troops before pelting them with petrol bombs.

Opposition jets raid Kabul for third day

KABUL (AFP) — Hundreds of Kabul families narrowly escaped disaster when two bombs dropped by an anti-Taliban jet exploded just metres from their apartment blocks early Monday, witnesses said.

"The bombs exploded in the vegetable gardens. That's what probably saved us. The ground was wet and soft and absorbed the blast," one shocked resident told AFP.

The bomb-blasts jet attack just after midnight shook the Russian-built multi-story apartment blocks in the eastern Mirzayab sub-urban area like an earthquake, locals said.

"We were woken from a deep sleep by the big bangs and felt the building jumping up and down," another resident said.

No civilian injuries were reported in this attack, the third jet strike over Kabul in

as many days, but all the glass windows in apartment blocks were shattered and all wooden joinery was torn to kindling.

Locals, who had already begun filling in the massive bomb craters in the vegetable gardens adjacent to the Mirzayab buildings, were angry they had lost their crops but happy to be still alive.

"I was sleeping in the open as the summer nights are too hot inside. I felt something like a typhoon pass over — it was the shrapnel," explained a market gardener.

Taliban anti-aircraft gunners sent up a shower of mixed-calibre cannon and machinegun fire, dramatically lighting up the night sky, but their attempts to shoot down the opposition intruder were futile.

Locals reported some fires were ignited in wood-stacks

and wheat-fields by hot metallic bits and pieces of anti-aircraft fire falling to the ground.

The two earlier jet strikes were late Friday night and at dawn Sunday, when the target was Kabul International Airport. Three Taliban air force personnel were killed and at least two more wounded in the first attack.

The attacking jets were believed to be Russian-built Sukhoi SU-22 bombers, remnants of the ageing anti-Taliban air force based in the northern Afghan capitals of either Mazar-i-Sharif or Shibirghar.

The anti-Taliban alliance is currently composed of the ex-government forces of ousted President Burhanuddin Rabbani, the ethnic Uzbek army of General Abdul Malik, and the Shiite fighters of the Hezb-i-Wahdat faction.

Last May the Taliban

were pushed out of northern Afghanistan after Gen. Malik, who had defected to the Islamic militia and let them in unopposed, turned on them when a power-sharing deal went sour.

An isolated pocket of Taliban in Kunduz and Baghlan provinces still holds out against pressure from Mr. Rabbani's top gun, Commander Ahmad Shah Massoud, based in Takhar and Badakhshan provinces further east.

On the frontlines north of Kabul the Islamic militants have not yet been able to punch through Mr. Massoud's defence lines and capture Jaber Os-Siraj and Gulbahar towns.

Jet strikes on Kabul do not alter the balance of power but serve to remind the Taliban that they are not out of opposition reach, Western analysts noted.

Mexican opposition leader hands ruling party big loss

MEXICO CITY (AFP) — Mexico's ruling party suffered a crushing defeat during weekend municipal elections with veteran leftist Cuauhtemoc Cardenas winning the mayoral race in Mexico City and the party's majority in congress hanging in the balance.

According to early returns, Mr. Cardenas won the mayoral race by a two-to-one margin and the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), the world's longest ruling party, may have also lost its majority in the chamber of deputies for the first time ever.

The PRI mayoral candidate, Alfredo Del Mazo, conceded defeat in a brief televised press conference. "I want to recognise that the quick counts indicate that the Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD) is winning," he said, going on to wish Mr. Cardenas "success" in his presidency.

Earlier, an uncharacteristically smiling Mr. Cardenas greeted supporters with a "V" for victory sign but did not formally claim victory. "I am absolutely happy, I

want to recognise all of those who voted for the Party of the Democratic Revolution in the federal district," he said, referring to his PRD.

With 13.04 per cent of polling stations reporting, Mr. Cardenas led with 46.39 per cent of the vote. Mr. Del Mazo had 25.1 per cent and the Conservative National Action Party candidate had just 17.97 per cent.

President Ernesto Zedillo congratulated Mr. Cardenas and "wished him absolute success in his management of the federal district."

Cardenas supporters honking horns roared the city streets waving the PRD's yellow "Aztec Sun" flags from windows while hundreds of people gathered in Mexico City's massive main square to celebrate.

The PRI may have also lost its absolute majority in the Chamber of Deputies for the first time.

With 34.11 per cent of the vote counted for deputies, the PRI had 36.51 per cent of the vote, the Conservative National Action Party (PAN) 28.39 per cent and Mr. Cardenas' PRD 26.13

per cent.

The breakdown for the 32 of 128 Senate seats up for grabs was similar.

The PRI was also trailing in the gubernatorial race in the northern industrial state of Nuevo Leon, according to exit polls which put the PAN ahead by three percentage points.

Mr. Cardenas' victory makes him the second most important man in Mexico after President Ernesto Zedillo and puts him in position for a third presidential bid.

Previously the post was appointed by the president. The city proper has a population of 8.5 million while its urban sprawl has about 18 million people.

Mr. Cardenas, 63, is a former governor who broke with the PRI to form the PRD in the 1980s. He lost a tainted presidential vote in 1988 and a cleaner election in 1994.

The best known of the mayoral candidates, Mr. Cardenas is the son of President Lázaro Cardenas (1934-1940) who nationalised Mexico's U.S.-dominated petroleum industry.

The ruling PRI was hurt not only by a slow recovery from the deepest recession in six decades, but also by scandals that have led to the jailing of a former president's brother under suspicion of theft and murder.

With the demise of the Soviet Union, the PRI became the world's oldest ruling party, winning every presidential election and controlling both houses of congress since 1929.

The opposition owes part of the victory to Mr. Zedillo, who came into office in 1994 pledging electoral reform.

That 1996 reform created the independent Federal Electoral Institute to run elections. Federal funds given to opposition parties allowed Mr. Cardenas to buy television time for the first time and new laws required television networks to give time to candidates.

Few serious incidents were reported outside the southern conflictive state of Chiapas, where six polling stations were either burned or the ballots were stolen and burned on site.

The next national-level elections are due to be held in July 1998 for half of the 252 seats in parliament's upper house, a less influential chamber than the lower house.

In the lower house, the LDP has 245 seats, Shinshinto 139 and the Communists 26.

Results announced by the Election Administration Commission showed that in Sunday's poll the LDP won 54 seats to maintain its status as top party in the assembly, up from 38 seats before the election.

The JCP came second with 26 seats, twice its pre-election strength, in the latest strong showing by Communists in local government elections.

The number of people eligible to vote in the Tokyo assembly poll numbered 9.4 million.



The remains of burned out cars lie in Garvaghy Road as firemen douse spot fires on the Nationalist estate Monday. Rioting in the estate erupted after the contentious Orange March had passed peacefully Sunday (Reuters photo).

Japan opposition leader shrugs off poll defeat

TOKYO (R) — Japan's top opposition leader Ichiro Ozawa, under fire for a new election defeat, Monday shrugged off suggestions that he should resign to take responsibility for his party's crumbling strength.

While Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, and at the other end of the political spectrum the Japan Communist Party, celebrated significant gains in Sunday's local Tokyo elections, Mr. Ozawa's only answer was that the electorate had failed so far to hear the message of his Shinshinto (New Frontier Party).

The contest for 127 seats in the Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly of 23 inner-city boroughs, suburban municipalities, and rural districts was regarded as a test of voter mood in the country's largest city ahead of national elections next year.

Shinshinto, which held four seats in the old assembly and contested 11 seats, came away empty-handed in the latest sign of its declining strength as a political force.

"We are not interested in the numbers game," Mr. Ozawa told reporters. "We will keep the banner high and push forward with our policies on reform."

For Mr. Hashimoto, the strong showing by his Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) cleared the political decks for the rest of the year, ensuring his easy reelection as party president in September.

Communist Party parliament member Yasuo Ogata said his party's gains marked a change in Japanese politics which would see the Communists become a force in national politics, not just local government, where issues were more parochial.

"There is a new axis in Japanese politics," Mr. Ogata said. "Voters want a true opposition such as we are instead of parties that simply try to be an alternative government."

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Colombian rebels shoot down army helicopter; 25 killed

BOGOTA (R) — Leftist rebels shot down an army helicopter over rugged terrain in an oil-producing region of eastern Colombia Sunday, killing 21 soldiers and four civilians, military sources said.

It was originally thought all on board were killed, but four soldiers, two of whom were suffering from extensive burns, managed to survive and made their way to a nearby army post in circumstances that were not immediately clear, official sources said.

The Russian-made MI-17 chopper, contracted out by a civilian aviation company, was flying to a remote area in Arauca province after National Liberation Army (ELN) rebels dynamited a section of Colombia's largest oil pipeline earlier in the day, head of the army General Manuel Jose Bonnett said.

The pipeline serves the Cano Limon Field operated by U.S. Multinational Occidental Petroleum Corp.

"The helicopter was taking a security force to the zone to assist pipeline repair work. It was hit in the air at a height of between 100 metres and 200 metres, crashed to the ground and burst into flames," Gen. Bonnett told a press conference.

He said ELN guerrillas had hidden in houses close to where they blew up the pipeline near the town of Arauca and waited for the helicopter to arrive before emerging and firing on it.

Among the dead were an officer, two junior officers and four civilian crew members, Gen. Bonnett told reporters.

It is the highest death toll inflicted on the army by rebels since the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) raided a military base in southern Putumayo province last August, killing 31 soldiers and capturing 60 others.

The Cuban-inspired ELN is Colombia's second largest rebel army and was set up by radical Roman Catholic priests in 1966. It specialises in attacks on the country's key oil infrastructure.

Air and ground troops were sent to the area, believed to be heavily mined, to recover the dead. But one of the helicopters, a U.S.-made Blackhawk, came under fire as it tried to land close to the crash site. It left the area without being hit, a military source said.

Defence Minister Gilberto Echeverri issued a statement condemning the incident "not as an act of war but a terrorist attack" and rejected suggestions that the downing of the helicopter was the latest sign of the guerrillas' fast-growing military capacity.

The attack on the pipeline, which pumps about 200,000 barrels of crude per day from Cano Limon to the Caribbean coast port of Covenas, was the 36th this year. Pumping operations were immediately halted, a spokesman for the state-run oil company Ecopetrol told Reuters.

Army top brass and defence experts have frequently condemned the military's use of MI-17 helicopters for troop movements over areas where rebels operate. The craft are not equipped with heavy machineguns or rockets and are notoriously slow manoeuvre.

In February of this year, 16 soldiers were gunned down by FARC rebels as they disembarked from an MI-17 chopper near the mountain town of San Juan to a short distance east of the capital Bogota. In both cases the MI-17s were flying into areas known to have a heavy guerrilla presence but neither had support from helicopter gunships.

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The attack on the pipeline, which pumps about 200,000 barrels of crude per day from Cano Limon to the Caribbean coast port of Covenas, was the 36th this year. Pumping operations were immediately halted, a spokesman for the state-run oil company Ecopetrol told Reuters.

Army top brass and defence experts have frequently condemned the military's use of MI-17 helicopters for troop movements over areas where rebels operate. The craft are not equipped with heavy machineguns or rockets and are notoriously slow manoeuvre.

In February of this year, 16 soldiers were gunned down by FARC rebels as they disembarked from an MI-17 chopper near the mountain town of San Juan to a short distance east of the capital Bogota. In both cases the MI-17s were flying into areas known to have a heavy guerrilla presence but neither had support from helicopter gunships.

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PRD party candidate to mayor of Mexico City Cuauhtemoc Cardenas is mobbed as he makes his way through the crowds in the capital's Zocalo Square after claiming victory Monday. Early exit polls showed Mr. Cardenas had a commanding lead over his PRI party rival (Reuters photo)

Cambodia's Hun Sen in control; Ranariddh to lead resistance

PHNOM PENH (R) — Cambodia's Second Prime Minister Hun Sen took complete control of Phnom Penh and its outskirts Monday, but his ousted rival Prince Norodom Ranariddh vowed from France to organise resistance.

Troops loyal to Prince Ranariddh pulled out of their Tang Krasang Base near Phnom Penh Airport overnight, leaving Mr. Hun Sen's forces unopposed.

First Prime Minister Prince Ranariddh said his rival had ousted him from power and vowed to organise resistance against Mr. Hun Sen.

"Now that he has succeeded in his coup d'etat, he says he has power and legitimacy," Prince Ranariddh said in an interview with the newspaper *Le Monde*. "The resistance will now be organised inside and outside Cambodia."

The casualty count from the fighting was difficult to determine, but one government official said it was as high as 150. He could not say how many were dead or wounded, but hospital sources said at least 12 people had been killed in two days of fighting in Phnom Penh.

The rest of the country appeared quiet Monday. But an official loyal to Prince Ranariddh in the northwest-

ern city of Battambang said there had been a brief clash between the two sides there early Monday.

A curfew was to go into effect at 8 p.m. (1300 GMT) in Phnom Penh for the third day.

Mr. Hun Sen said in a radio broadcast late Sunday that Prince Ranariddh, his uneasy coalition government partner since the 1993 elections, was a "traitor and a thief" and that the prince no longer held the post of first prime minister.

Prince Ranariddh left Cambodia Friday, the eve of the fighting. He said he fled his homeland before the fighting began on the advice of his generals.

In his radio broadcast, Mr. Hun Sen also ruled out any intervention by King Norodom Sihanouk, Prince Ranariddh's father, who is in Beijing undergoing medical treatment.

As fighting raged in Phnom Penh over the weekend, the king called for both sides to visit him in China to try to resolve their differences. But Mr. Hun Sen said that would not be necessary.

"It is heard that the king proposes to have reconciliation in Beijing," Mr. Hun Sen said. "It is too late and it is not necessary. Everything is over."



Cambodian soldiers loyal to Second Prime Minister Hun Sen watch a factory burn beside an armoured personnel carrier in Phnom Penh on Sunday. Fighting between forces loyal to Cambodia's co-premiers, Prince Norodom Ranariddh and Hun Sen clashed again today leaving Phnom Penh residents in panic (Reuters photo)

The fighting erupted Saturday when Mr. Hun Sen sent his forces against Prince Ranariddh's men. Mr. Hun Sen said the action was necessary because Prince Ranariddh's commandos had been snu-

gling defectors from the Khmer Rouge guerrilla group into the capital to boost their troop strength.

Fighting was light Monday. Bursts of small arms fire were heard intermittently around the capital.

Residents could travel freely through the city centre, but many shops and government offices remained closed. Shoppers reported exorbitant prices. State television, which has always been controlled by

Mr. Hun Sen's Cambodian People's Party (CPP), showed pictures of abandoned, bombed-out buildings where men from Prince Ranariddh's Royalist FUNCINPEC party had holed up over the weekend.

The French embassy was among the buildings damaged Sunday. A shell destroyed the offices of the ambassador and the military attaché, an embassy official said.

No flights in or out of Phnom Penh were expected Monday, an airport security official said. One aviation source in Phnom Penh said the airport runway had been damaged by shellfire and it was doubtful that commercial airlines could land.

Keo Sopha, director general of the Civil Aviation Authority, said he hoped the airport would be open by Wednesday.

"Last night, illegal forces controlled the airport and broke equipment and looted because they were drunk," he said, referring to forces loyal to Prince Ranariddh. "Now government troops control it again and we will start repairs. We hope to open tomorrow or the day after."

On Monday morning, the airport, shops, houses and warehouses in the area were looted by soldiers, witnesses said.

"Yesterday soldiers, today robbers," said one resident in the area. "FUNCINPEC soldiers took all the duty free and now CPP soldiers are taking what's left," said an airport worker.

Soldiers and civilians also looted warehouses on the airport road and were seen driving off in new cars and on motorbikes. Others were carrying off televisions and appliances.

Military police and soldiers later tried to restore order, firing shots in the air to disperse crowds, witnesses said.

Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said he was consulting his colleagues in the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) about a possible meeting on Cambodia.

Cambodia, Laos and Burma are due to become full members of the group at the end of July, but Philippine Foreign Secretary Domingo Siazon said ASEAN could still change its mind.

"That decision could still change depending on how bad the situation turns out," he told reporters.

Malaysia's Acting Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim said the ASEAN position on Cambodia had not changed "because the commitment has already been made."

ASEAN groups Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam,

Sri Lanka further tightens security after assassination

COLOMBO (AFP) — Sri Lanka has further strengthened already tight security arrangements in the capital Colombo following the assassination of a senior Tamil legislator by separatist rebels, police said.

Deputy Police Inspector General T.B. Dissanayake said more searches were being carried out to round up suspected members of the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) who may be planning attacks here.

Mr. Dissanayake said the measures were purely "precautionary" and taken be-

cause of fears that the LTTE may mark their "Black July" to commemorate those killed in the anti-Tamil riots here 14 years ago.

Police headquarters has already issued pictures of a dozen suspected Tiger suicide bombers who are believed to have infiltrated the capital to carry out attacks.

Police said the LTTE marked the 10th anniversary of their first suicide bombing Saturday by assassinating a moderate Tamil politician, Arunachalam Thangathurai, 61, in the northeastern port town of Trincomalee.

Five suspects have already been arrested in connection with the killing of Thangathurai, police said. Five others were also killed together with the MP during a bomb attack Saturday at a school ceremony.

On the eve of last year's Tiger suicide bombing anniversary, a woman strapped with explosives blasted herself in front of Housing Minister Nimal Siripala De Silva in the northern Jaffna Peninsula.

The minister escaped with injuries but the blast killed the region's top military commander, Ananda Kumaru-

du, and 21 other people.

Since the first attack, Black Tigers, or LTTE suicide cadres, have claimed a steady toll and are also accused of killing the former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in May 1991 and Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa two years later.

Tiger guerrillas regard their suicide bombers as key weapons in their separatist war for an independent homeland in the island's northern and eastern regions.

More than 50,000 people have been killed in fighting over the past 25 years.

Over 300 detained in Karachi

KARACHI (AFP) — Police have detained more than 300 people in Karachi in a crackdown on violence and crime in Pakistan's largest city, police officials said Monday.

Political activists from various parties are also among those rounded up in the operation which followed the killing of a senior government official here Saturday, they said.

They were picked up in police raids from their homes or hideouts in the sprawling port city, a police official said.

The detained political activists belong to Pakistan People's Party (PPP) of former Premier Benazir Bhutto and a splinter group, the Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM), as well as its breakaway faction and other groups, police said.

About a dozen illegal weapons, including Kalashnikov assault rifles, and Stenguns, were seized, he added.

The chief of Karachi Electricity Supply Corp. (KESC), Malik Shahid Hamid, was gunned down by unidentified assailants in an ambush.

The widow of Hamid has lodged a complaint with the police blaming MQM for the assassination of her husband, a charge denied by the ethnic-based party.

MQM, representing Karachi's largest settler Mohajir community, is a partner in the ruling coalition in southern Sindh province, of which Karachi is the capital. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's party leads the coalition.

According to police around 250 people, including dozens of political activists, have been killed in Karachi in the past four months.

Meanwhile, one person was killed and seven injured Monday when an explosion destroyed a house in downtown Karachi, Pakistan's largest city, police and witnesses said.

Bomb disposal expert Moenuddin said after examining the site that the blast was "in all probability" caused by "explosive material."

Walls of surrounding dwellings were also damaged in the explosion in Azam Nagar, a poor neighbourhood in the sprawling violence-plagued port city.

The blast occurred on the first floor of the house killing the tenant said to be a street vendor, tearing off his hand and a leg, police said.

Anti-Japanese protesters in H. Kong mark China invasion

HONG KONG (R) — Hong Kong activists marked the 60th anniversary of Japan's invasion of China Monday with protests urging Tokyo to apologise and compensate Chinese victims of World War II atrocities.

Groups of demonstrators staged angry scenes outside the Japanese consulate in Hong Kong which a week ago joined China as a special region after 156 years of British colonial rule.

They gathered in memory of the July 7, 1937 Marco Polo Bridge incident which sparked a full-scale Japanese invasion of China that eventually plunged Asia into World War II.

Hong Kong itself was held by Japan from 1941-45, along with much of China in a huge swathe of Asian territory under Japanese occupation.

Protesters erected a large booth at the foot of a flashy downtown office block housing the consulate and brokers' houses, and displayed dozens of black-and-white photos showing the mass murder of Chinese people.

Other pictures portrayed dazed young girls, victims of rape by Japanese soldiers

in the years between 1931 and 1945, when Japanese aggression tore China apart.

Thousands of passers-by stopped on their way to work or to lunch to gaze at horrifying pictures exposing a bloody chapter in modern history as protesters chanted anti-Japanese slogans.

A small group of police stood by watching.

"We will never forget July 7, we oppose the revival of Japanese militarism," demonstrators shouted into megaphones as they distributed pamphlets.

About 60 activists — elderly war victims, Chinese nationalists, politicians and trade unionists — also took turns to protest in front of the Japanese consulate. They shouted slogans and handed in letters to consulate officials.

Their anger was fuelled by rows in the past year over a disputed group of islands in the East China Sea, called the Diaoyu Islands in China and the Senkaku Islands in Japan, after Japanese rightists erected a lighthouse on the uninhabited island chain.

Japan holds the islands which are also claimed by China and Taiwan.

"Your occupation of the Diaoyu is not good for us and for Asia. We do not wish to see a repeat of World War II," said Ng Yat-Hing from the Reparation Association of Hong Kong.

Albert Ho, spokesman for the Action Committee for Defending the Diaoyu Islands in Hong Kong, urged Japan to apologise.

"Japan has never, as a country, apologised for its war atrocities," Mr. Ho, also a member of Hong Kong's dominant Democratic Party and a former legislator said, demanding immediate action by Tokyo.

The pro-China newspaper *Ta Kung Pao* said in a commentary that atrocities committed by Japan would never be forgotten.

It also urged Tokyo not to forget Japanese civilians who also suffered after American warplanes dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki to end the war.

"Japanese occupation brought terrible hardship to Chinese people and it also hurt Japanese citizens."

"The Japanese government and people should always remember the lessons of history," the newspaper said.

Italy to send army to help quell Naples mobsters

ROME (R) — Italy's Interior Minister Giorgio Napolitano said Sunday he would send troops into the southern city of Naples after an upsurge in mob violence that has shocked the country.

Since the beginning of the year, about 80 people have been killed and dozens injured as the various clans of the Naples mafia known as the Camorra struggle for supremacy.

"We will define within the week a provision for a limited and targeted use of the military in Naples," Mr. Napolitano told state television Sunday night.

The troops "will relieve some several hundred police offi-

cers in Naples who will then be able to deal directly in fighting the Camorra," he added.

The announcement followed another weekend of violence around the port city, with two suspected mobsters gunned down a number of innocent bystanders, including an eight-year-old girl, injured in the shooting.

Newspapers have branded the region "The Far West" as the gangs take their handle onto the streets.

Last month a woman walking home with her six-year-old son was killed by a stray bullet in a gun battle in central Naples.

S. Korean president's son denies bribery charges

SEOUL (R) — South Korean President Kim Young-Sam's second son Monday denied taking bribes at the outset of a trial that political analysts said would further damage the embattled head of state.

On the first day of Kim Hyun-Chul's trial on charges of bribery and tax evasion, he admitted accepting a total of 6.61 billion won (\$7.4 million) from business associates.

But he told the court: "I was never asked for favours in return for money I received. They told me they were giving me money to fund my activities."

The younger Mr. Kim ran a political organisation that helped get his father elected as the country's first civilian head of state in 1992.

Mr. Kim Hyun-Chul is charged with taking kickbacks worth 3.22 billion won in return for favours, including obtaining a cable television licence, a highway fast-food franchise and fixing a court case.

He is also charged with evading taxes on 3.39 billion won he accepted as gifts.

Dressed in pale blue prison garb and with his head lowered, he arrived in the courthouse in a prison bus.

Political analysts said the scandal had dealt a serious blow to President Kim by limiting his political influence ahead of presidential elections in December.

The president is barred from seeking reelection by the constitution.

"The scandal has already made it almost impossible for the president to wield any influence in selecting

his party's candidate," said Kwon Moo-Soo, president of the Graduate School of Politics and Leadership at Seoul's Kookmin University.

"The trial will not have a major additional impact but will keep limiting the president's political power by reminding the people of the scandal."

Kim Young-Sam's ruling New Korea Party plans to elect a presidential candidate on July 21.

The younger Mr. Kim, nicknamed "The Crown Prince" by the local media, took his first kickback shortly after his father came to office in February 1993, according to the prosecution.

Also on trial was a former top intelligence official, Kim Ki-Sup, an associate of the president's son who is charged with receiving 150 million won in bribes to help obtain a lucrative cable television licence.

Mr. Kim Ki-Sup pleaded guilty to the charge.

Prosecutors said Mr. Kim Hyun-Chul evaded taxes of 1.4 billion won on the gifts from businessmen and hid the money in dozens of false-name accounts.

One of his father's first acts on taking power was to ban false-name accounts as part of his anti-graft campaign.

At a separate trial Monday, one of Mr. Kim Hyun-Chul's associates, Park Tae-Joong, pleaded guilty to taking 870 million won from businessmen.

Opposition parties have alleged Mr. Kim Hyun-Chul pressured banks to keep loans flowing to Hanbo Steel, South Korea's



South Korean President Kim Young-Sam's second son Kim Hyun-Chul is shown wearing a prison uniform in this file photo. Mr. Kim went on trial Monday in Seoul on charges of tax evasion and bribery (Reuters photo)

second largest steelmaker.

The steelmaker's collapse in January shed light on a web of corruption involving politicians, bankers and businessmen.

Last month the founder of Hanbo, key presidential aides, politicians and top bankers were jailed for their roles in the Hanbo

scandal. Prosecutors have cleared Mr. Kim Hyun-Chul of any wrongdoing in the Hanbo affair.

South Korean law calls for a maximum penalty of life in jail for tax evasion. Under the bribery charges brought against him, Mr. Kim Hyun-Chul faces a maximum five years in jail.

Russian Progress cargo craft docks at Mir with repair kit

KOROLYEV (AFP) — A Russian cargo craft docked with the crippled Mir space station Monday, bringing vital supplies to repair damage caused by a collision last month, ground control said.

The unmanned Progress craft began docking automatically at 0559 GMT, as scheduled.

The craft was bringing cables which will allow the Mir's three-man crew to restore electric power, severely limited since the smash between Mir and another Progress craft on June 25.

Also being delivered was a sealed door to be installed at the entrance of Mir's Spektr Module, which was

depressurised during the collision and had to be closed off.

Before the crew could begin unloading the Progress, they had to make sure it had made full connection with the mother ship.

Vera Medvedkova, a spokeswoman for ground control at Korolyev outside Moscow, said the door of the Progress would be opened at about 0700 GMT.

"They are checking the seal of the docking," she said. "Obviously without that they couldn't have begun repairing the station."

The Progress craft lifted off from Baikonur Cosmodrome in the Central

Asian state of Kazakhstan Saturday.

In addition to the repair kit, it was carrying fuel, food, drinking water and personal gear for American astronaut Michael Foale, who lost his belongings in the Spektr. He also lost many of his scientific experiments.

The cosmonauts on Mir will have to enter the cramped Spektr wearing cumbersome space suits when they carry out the cable and door repairs on July 17-18.

Meanwhile, the third crew member, Foale, will sit ready in the Mir's Soyuz vehicle, which can be used to evacuate the station in an emergency.

Western arms giants launch assault on new NATO market

PARIS (AFP) — NATO's planned expansion to include Eastern European states has Western arms manufacturers drawing up their own battle plans to capture the new market, worth several billion dollars over the coming years.

U.S. companies already supply most of the equipment to forces of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), giving them a clear lead in the race for new business.

But European firms hope to clinch more than a few deals as Eastern European states shed

their Soviet-era arms and equipment and fall into line with NATO's defence systems.

NATO will decide at its summit in Madrid on July 8 and 9 which former Warsaw Pact states to include in the defence alliance. The front runners are Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic.

So far, only a few contracts have been signed, including a \$100 million deal by the French Company Matra, concluded in April, to supply Mistral surface-to-air missiles to Hungary.

The writer is a specialist on NATO affairs. The article above is reprinted from the International Herald.

Jordan-Kuwait Bank assembly meetings cancelled

(Continued from page 1)

After the above were disputed, the two meetings were cancelled and all were informed that the board of directors of the Jordan-Kuwait Bank, and upon announcing the cancellations, decided to form a committee to monitor the proper and legal issuing of invitations. Yet upon attending the meeting which was planned for July 6, Mr. Fakhoury's group was surprised that the invitations had not been legally posted and was found that some shareholder authorisations had been accepted while others rejected in a manner that would affect decisions made at both meetings. In order to guarantee that any future meeting will be proper and legal, Mr. Fakhoury said his group will request that the Companies Comptroller and other related official departments to consider the invitation procedures taken at the July 6 meetings illegal and to form a committee to supervise any preparatory procedures for any future general assembly meetings, including the issuing of invitations to shareholders.

Companies Comptroller Luay Musmar stressed the assurance of the Ministry of Trade and Industry that all is consistent with the application of the law in letter and spirit noting that any person who broke the law, whether the Companies Law or any other law, will be punished accordingly.

During a meeting between the Jordan-Kuwait Bank board of directors and the Companies Comptroller at

the Ministry of Trade and Industry Monday, Mr. Musmar said that the cancellation of the previous meeting due to an incomplete quorum was a regular act and that another meeting had been scheduled for July 15 without any further delay.

He added that an authorisation worth five hundred thousand shares that was not listed in bank registers had led to the termination of the general assembly meeting, pointing out that this same authorisation will be listed by the next meeting, which will make the quorum legal.

He said that the posting of invitations is the responsibility of the board of directors and not any other party, noting that the law clearly provides for this.

Meanwhile, concerning news of a possible merger between the Bank of Jordan and the Jordan-Kuwait Bank, Mr. Sartawi said that on many occasions the board of directors of his bank had openly rejected the control of any other bank and that the idea of a merger between his bank and the Bank of Jordan is not an option.

Mr. Fakhoury had recently said that the Bank of Jordan and the Jordan-Kuwait Bank had initially agreed to merge under the name of the Bank of Jordan, after an agreement reached between the Jordan-Kuwait Bank's board of directors and prominent Kuwaiti shareholders in a recent meeting held in Beirut. However, the Kuwaiti group had changed their mind on this and favoured raising the bank's capital instead.

Israel's premier names other finance minister than Sharon

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Neeman had served as justice minister for two months last year, but stepped down after he was indicted on charges of perjury and obstruction of justice. Mr. Neeman was eventually acquitted.

However, he was blocked from returning to the justice ministry because a Netanyahu ally, Tsachi Hanegbi, had since taken over the job and refused to leave.

It was not immediately clear whether the Mr. Neeman appointment would defuse the crisis between Mr. Netanyahu and Mr. Levy, since Mr. Netanyahu said he would consult with Mr. Sharon concerning the peace talks with the Palestinians.

Later Monday, parliament was to vote on motions of no confidence in the government submitted by three opposition parties. Two motions criticised the functioning of the government and a third dealt with the freeze in the negotiations with the Palestinians.

The vote was to be held late Monday evening, and it appeared unlikely the opposition would win the 61 votes — out of 120 in parliament — to topple the government. Mr. Netanyahu's coalition controls 66 seats in parliament.

In a similar vote two weeks ago, Mr. Levy and the four legislators from his Geshet group, along with six other coalition lawmakers, had abstained to show their anger with Mr. Netanyahu.

Ankara lifts ban on trade with Baghdad

(Continued from page 1)

second-largest trading partner before the Gulf crisis, and has called for the lifting of the sanctions on Baghdad.

Ankara last year asked the United Nations to grant it a special status, like that of Jordan, under which it could buy a limited amount of oil from Iraq in return for food sales. But it has so far received no reply.

The United Nations has in the last few years been tolerating moves by Turkish truck drivers to take food into Iraq and bring small amounts of oil back every day through the Habur border post, the only crossing point between the two countries.

Lebanese guerrillas fire rockets into Israel

(Continued from page 1)

innocent civilians and the violation of the truce agreement," a Hizbollah spokesman told AFP.

The Katyusha attack came after five Lebanese civilians were wounded by Israeli shelling earlier in the day in retaliation for the killing of an Israeli army officer in a Hizbollah guerrilla ambush.

Two civilians, Mohamad Deher Shihadeh and Mohamad Ayoub, were seriously wounded in the village of Kfar Tebbit in an Israeli artillery bombardment. Earlier, three civilians, including a seven-year-old boy and a teenager, were injured when Israeli mortars pounded a stronghold of the Hizbollah movement.

The shelling, accompanied by a series of air strikes, was in response to the killing of an

Iraq resumed limited oil sales last December under an "oil-for-food" deal with the United Nations which allows it to sell \$2 billion worth of oil every six months to buy food and medicine.

Most of the oil sold has flowed to the Mediterranean via a pipeline passing across Turkish territory.

Mr. Ecevit, a hardliner in relations with the United States and other Western allies on Iraq policies and the Cyprus problem, on June 30 became deputy prime minister in Conservative Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz' minority coalition government.

Israeli officer and the injury of a militiaman from Israel's allied South Lebanon Army in a Hizbollah ambush near the town of Sojoud in the Israeli-occupied zone.

The civilian injuries prompted Lebanon to lodge a complaint with an international committee monitoring a 1996 ceasefire agreement between Israel and Hizbollah guerrillas in south Lebanon. The truce accord, which ended Israel's 17-day Grapes of Wrath offensive against Hizbollah in Lebanon, bans combatants on both sides from targeting each other's civilians. Hizbollah spearheads an armed campaign to drive Israeli troops out of the buffer zone set up in 1985 in an attempt to prevent attacks by anti-Israeli guerrillas on its northern border.

Region on rebound after centuries in abeyance — Prince Hassan

(Continued from page 1)

betterment of all," the Prince said to an audience that included Hungarian President Arpad Goncz.

The Prince, who offered to host ICANAS's 36th congress in four years time, told the distinguished gathering that while economic globalism is the motto of the day, "regionalism is one such strategy by which the developing countries of the world can generate solutions to universal problems that affect us all."

The Middle East region, the Crown Prince noted, should not only be viewed in terms of "oil, security and Israel" alone. Rather it should be looked at in a comprehensive way and redefined in terms of its needs and its multi-ethnic-religious diversity and pluralism, he said.

Following are major excerpts from the Crown Prince's address to the ICANAS' three-day congress being held at Budapest University:

The patrons of this congress include such distinguished persons as His Excellency President Goncz. They also include His Highness Prince Takahito Mikasa of Japan, whose contributions to oriental studies are widely known and much appreciated. This is more than symbolic. Its significance is that the scope of this congress extends from the Pacific to the Atlantic. It includes the Asian rim of Europe and the European rim of Asia.

My own region has been termed, from a European perspective, the Middle East. But looking at it from Japan, we are the Middle West. We have been for six centuries the hub of cultural and trade exchanges in the vast region extending from Morocco to China. Bilad Al Sham, as we were also known historically, was inclusive of Iran and Iraq.

We, in Bilad Al Sham, strongly believe in openness, pluralism and cooperation towards the development of human civilisation. Bilad Al Sham has always been a vital and vibrant centre for human interaction. It was in Bilad Al Sham that the alphabet was first invented and where different peoples and cultures converged and interacted. Many people took refuge in it in pursuit of freedom and dignified life.

The centrism of its people make it a factor for stability in the region and beyond. That centrism enabled Bilad Al Sham to significantly contribute to human civilisation.

It is fascinating, but perhaps not all that surprising, to read that the first recorded evidence for the existence of the Hungarian peoples was recorded by Muslim travellers and geographers. Islamic geography was the

first academic field to use the term *iqlim* or region to describe the often economically disparate but culturally interconnected districts that made up the Muslim *umma*. And because it continued to look closely at neighbouring societies and to systematically collect information on Asia, Africa and Europe, the intellectual curiosity born out of this cumulative scientific endeavour became regional and humanistic over time.

Islamic geography began to address universal issues pertaining to the existence of different races, the nature of societies and the creation of states. Because of the proximity of medieval European kingdoms to Muslim empires or states, Islamic geography also became the discipline which drew in, and refashioned the world views of Muslims and Christians alike.

What has happened in our time to the trans-regional, collaborative culture that was the defining feature of Mediterranean civilisation in the eighth to sixteenth centuries? The good news is that it is on the rebound after centuries in abeyance; the bad news is that it has taken four hundred years for a common idiom to be found that could serve as a basis for this new foundation.

None of us can change history, especially the history of the cataclysmic wars, large and small, that raged throughout the Mediterranean as Christian Europe and Muslim Asia, faced each other in the pre-modern era, but we can, and we must use the lessons of the past to reinvigorate the present for the betterment of all.

In this respect, may I pay tribute to all of the scholars of oriental and Asian studies, many of whom are assembled here, who have struggled valiantly to redress the situation of this interdisciplinary field after the label, "orientalist," came under attack, rightly or wrongly, from more activist academic circles.

The controversy over the term, "orientalism" is now behind us. It behooves us to remember that whatever the merits of the argument itself, the exposure of the political, strategic and racist uses to which the term was put under colonialism has functioned largely as a corrective.

Today it is impossible to write knowledgeably of the Arab Middle East without coming to terms with one's own cultural subjectivity. We must take into account the many different literary, philological, economic, social and political representations that over the years have predetermined the way we collectively envisage "the Orient."

Obviously, even though these historic biases have been recognised, there is still some way to go before they

are completely overturned. This conference will be of inestimable help in furthering this goal.

Similarly, there is a case to be made for reconceptualising the notion of "occidentalism" to reflect a more balanced and more reflective agenda. While the term is less notorious than that of "orientalism," it too should function as a wake-up call for all those concerned with revitalising the European-Asian relationship.

The nature of the relationship itself has fluctuated throughout history, encompassing war and coexistence, and colonialism, independence. Three years short of the Millennium, it has finally stabilised into partnership of equals, each cognizant of his strengths and weaknesses and each ready to maximise his efforts to help redevelop this most historic of regions, the Mediterranean.

In order to do this, we must be ready to help ourselves as well as others in the region. Because history is a continuum, and we are all inheritors of our often shared past, a wealth of human experience exists to solve endemic and seemingly intractable global problems.

Regionalism is one such strategy by which the developing countries of the world can generate solutions to universal problems that affect us all. The chief problem, however, seems to be to arrive at a consensual meaning to the term itself.

My earlier remarks drew the broad lines of a shared, inclusive culture that was the main feature of Arab-Islamic civilisation. We could begin by contrasting this holistic, rational and universalistic vision with the narrow, limited version of regionalism or globalism in vogue today. In the Arab-Islamic world, globalism was more or less a participatory culture (note the almost inevitable acculturation of Crusaders once they settled down in Palestine).

Nowadays, many consider globalism as Westernism. Notions of democracy, freedom of the individual, the market economy linear progress, and even human rights need not be based solely on a Western reading of world history.

About the only thing truly global about globalism today is that frontiers are eroding under the impact of new technologies and free trade. Is that the same thing as saying the world's cultures and civilisations are meeting on more cooperative terms?

We believe that for a more symbiotic view of regionalism to appear, a common agenda is needed between North and South. In some areas, this has already begun. While the Euro-Arab dialogue attempted to forge bilateral economic and trading links between Europe and various Arab countries

in the seventies, it was not completely successful.

Lately, the Dialogue has become a Process; launched in Barcelona in 1993, the Euro-Med Partnership initiative envisages a serious effort to develop substantial economic, strategic and cultural ties between nations of the Mediterranean. Considering their shared history, the notion that both sides of the Mediterranean have an active role to play in reviving trans-regional associations is only logical.

It is also, may I remind this distinguished audience, reminiscent of earlier post-war security arrangements made between Europe and the United States, and between European countries themselves, the most important of which remains the Helsinki Process.

In fact, the Barcelona Declaration of Principles is almost identical to that of the Helsinki Final Act, and can be seen as a bridgehead towards a comprehensive security framework for the Middle East as a whole.

It behooves us to ask the question: Why is it that the physical proximity that once tied Muslim, Christian and Jew in the medieval Mediterranean in a web of inter-communal relations can no longer restore balance and tolerance today between cultures so similar that they revere the same Abrahamic origins? Why is it that some of us have chosen to retreat into our nationalistic enclaves, determined to resist the ideas and influences of our neighbours, and prepared to foist our narrow and provincial agendas on one another?

In this fast-paced and frenetic world, history must stand for something. It must provide a complex, nuanced vision that transcends today's fear, bigotry and suspicion. We must look to our common heritage to provide us with a more dynamic model for future interaction and cooperation: a heritage built on cultures and civilisations that once approached each other as partners in the same regional cultural endeavour.

That is why Jordan has been for many years promoting interfaith dialogue between Muslims, Christians and Jews. And we are promoting the establishment of a council against anti-Islamism.

It may well be that conferences such as this will act as springboards not only for academic cross-fertilisation but for the furtherance of policy dialogue between world cultures. In this regard, may I reiterate an obvious fact; the present cannot be divorced from the past. We must learn to coexist with both if we are to continue to cross inter-cultural bridges of our own making.

Hungarian president says Jordan's role is vital, pivotal and stabilising

(Continued from page 1)

Prince Hassan envisaged cooperation between these countries starting with the Jordan Rift Valley, that borders Jordan, Israel and the Palestinian territories, and expanding northwards through Syria and Lebanon to Turkey.

The Prince added that Jordan would draw on the experience of Hungary and other central European countries in developing the Danube basin.

He further noted that smaller countries with similar experiences, like Jordan and Hungary should exchange information and compare experiences.

At parliament, Speaker Zoltan Gal expressed full support for Jordan and the Crown Prince's efforts.

Since the two countries are parliamentary democracies, it should be easier for both to cooperate, Mr. Gal was quoted by a Jordanian delegate as saying.

Mr. Gal pledged full support for Jordan's position at the International Parliamentary Union's conference due to be held in Cairo later this month.

"Hungary will remain committed to developing relations with the Arab

countries, especially moderate like Jordan whose policies are characterised by logic and reason," Mr. Gal was quoted as saying.

The Crown Prince told the speaker that Jordan believes in civic society and is committed to upholding the rule of law and respecting human rights.

In a meeting later on in the day with trade and industrial leaders, the Crown Prince reviewed Jordan's economic indicators and invited his interlocutors to consider exploring investment in the Kingdom.

During his meeting with the ambassadors of Arab and Muslim nations, the Crown Prince explained in detail Jordan's position regarding the peace process and the final settlement of the Middle East conflict.

Jordan is fully supportive of the Palestinian peoples' quest to regain their inalienable rights, including the right to statehood and Jerusalem as its capital, Prince Hassan told the ambassadors.

And Jordan is ringing the alarm bell against the settlement of refugees in the host countries, the Prince said.

Violence in the occupied Arab territories and the stalemate in the peace process are leading to a growing frustration among the peoples of the region, Prince Hassan said adding that it is unacceptable that the international community should only react when the situation escalates into confrontation.

That is why Jordan would like Europe, a regional power with much interest in the Middle East, to be active in the search for a formula to advance the peace process, he said.

Jordan, therefore, believes in a pro-active policy that keeps all the parties to the conflict, in addition to the U.S. and Europe, fully engaged in talks that aim at ending the current deadlock in the peace talks.

Cooperation among the Arabs, therefore, becomes vital, he said.

Jordan, as a central state in the Middle East region, would like to see more dialogue among the region's states inclusive of Iraq and Iran who are being subjected to the policy of dual con-

tainment by the U.S. "Dual containment has not contained," Prince Hassan noted.

"Jordan has become the first country in the region to completely remove foreign exchange controls on both current and capital accounts," the Prince said.

"By making our currency fully convertible, we are making it easier for Hungarian businessmen to invest and trade with Jordan."

He said that plans for the Jordan Rift Valley project, the Aqaba free trade zone, among others, will be presented at the Doha Middle East and North Africa (MENA) summit that will convene in November and that Jordan will attend.

Randa Habib's corner

Either black or white; what about grey?

THE OTHER day I conducted my own random survey by asking friends and acquaintances questions concerning optimism and pessimism. The result was most interesting.

It appeared that 50 per cent are optimistic while 50 per cent are pessimistic.

Optimists thought that everything was all right. The peace process? Well, as long as it is not dead and buried, it means it is still alive. So being optimistic by nature, they keep believing in that process.

Amazingly, that same category of people views any event, even bloody or insulting, as a possible incentive to move forward.

For them, for example, any financial international help is a positive step to help boost the economy of the country.

At the other end, the pessimists thought that the situation is terrible. The peace process is clinically dead and kept alive artificially.

Tensions, attacks, insulting slogans are yet another proof of the deadlock in the situation.

As for the economic situation of the country, they think it is terrible. They even believe that Jordan should not accept tiny financial aids. A question of pride, they claim. Even the \$100 million given by the U.S. to the Kingdom should have been rejected because of the discrepancy: Israel is getting \$3 billion.

I forgot to mention that my modest poll showed that the overwhelming majority of the optimists are government officials, while the pessimists are columnists, political activists or women used to nag at home.

It also revealed that the optimists look much younger than their age and adopt a relaxed attitude, even when it comes to clothing.

The moral of the story? This survey proves, if needed, that we are extremists in everything. We believe in black or white, never in grey or striped colours.

So where are the people of the middle of the road? I could not find them. Maybe, as someone once said, for fear of being run over by cars.

Agency for HIV positive models reflects mainstreaming of AIDS

COSTA MESA, California (AFP) — They are gorgeous models — men with bulging biceps, a busty blonde former Playboy centerfold, teenagers with rippling abs — and they are all HIV positive.

They are among 75 models for proof positive, the world's only modeling agency with models willing to go public with their HIV positive status to promote health products to the HIV and AIDS community.

It began in 1994 when Abbot Laboratories contacted Morgan Modelling Agency owner Keith Lewis. The company wanted an HIV-positive model for Advera, a high nutrient drink for people with HIV, the virus that leads to AIDS.

"I am supposed to ask people if they have AIDS and then tell them I am going to put their face in a magazine?" Mr. Lewis recalls thinking loudly in disbelief to himself when the request was first made. "Yeah, right."

But he put out a modeling call and to his surprise about 100 people showed up. Good-looking, healthy people who were willing to publicly state their HIV status. The proof positive agency grew out of that.

Famous models include Ty Ross, the grandson of conservative icon and one-time presidential contender Barry Goldwater, Eileen Getty, granddaughter of oil magnate J. Paul Getty and former Playboy centerfold Rebekka Armstrong.

Some of the models have crossed over to mainstream media, with German Vogue featuring HIV models. Pharmaceutical advertising in largely gay communities will be in national magazines in a year, Mr. Lewis predicted.

Kevin McDermott, who was a dancer at the 1996 academy awards ceremony, a stuntman for a Levi ad and danced in a Las Vegas revue, recalls his relief at finding work with proof positive.

"This business is about rejection," he said of modeling and acting. "That's what you get most of the time. Put being HIV on top of that and you've got real security issues."

"Being HIV is something you think about when you go to bed and as soon as you wake up in the morning. Here was someone saying, 'It's okay. You're normal.' Keith

made me feel proud and wonderful."

Gretchen Adams, 30, a model and HIV educator said she was glad to be part of an effort that changed the typical image of people with HIV and AIDS as bedridden and wasted.

"I was glad I could be a model. A normal looking woman who can say 'yeah, I have HIV. But HIV is not everything I am,'" said Mr. Adams.

Mr. Lewis said that since the Advera campaign, his business has taken off with forays into providing HIV positive actors for television and movies. But he said there have been public service aspects to his project, too.

The drug manufacturers came to him because they no longer wanted to put disclaimers on their ads, saying the models were not HIV positive. But that trend coincided with changes in the disease.

New drugs and diet are helping to keep HIV and AIDS victims alive for years, sometimes a decade or more. And it has also gone mainstream, spreading most rapidly now among women, heterosexual men and teenagers.

As the disease has evolved, so has proof positive.

"Previously, ads were gay specific. They're not anymore. They've gone so mainstream, it's almost the opposite," he said, noting that his agency is now negotiating for a seven-year-old model for a pharmaceutical company.

Mr. Lewis said it was important to get across to the public — especially the youth — that they could no longer count on the old images of disfigured and wasted men to cue them as to who was carrying the virus.

"When they see those images of wasted men, they think, 'that's not me.' That doesn't look like anyone I know. It can't happen to me," Mr. Lewis said.

But these muscular, shapely and fit-looking HIV models used by proof positive remind them it could be anyone and practicing safe sex is not optional.

"When they see a sexy, hip, healthy looking model saying they are HIV positive, they're going to say, 'That's somebody I went out with last night! That's someone I'd like to meet... That's my friend.'"

Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic press

85 public shareholding companies submit financial statements in English to Amman Financial Market

**** IN ORDER** to increase the attractiveness of the Amman Financial Market (AFM) to foreign investors and to boost their interest in investing in the Kingdom, 85 public shareholding companies have, for the first time, submitted the financial statements in the English language. Noting that the companies have shown great cooperation with the stock exchange, AFM Director General Wahib Shair said that 129 companies have submitted their regular Arabic financial statements out of 134 companies which close their books by the end of the year. The AFM has distributed the financial statements to the brokers and those dealing in the market.

The AFM last week sent letters to the companies which have not yet submitted their financial accounts and gave them until Thursday to do so or risk having their shares suspended from trading after that day. Meanwhile, Mr. Shair told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the directory of the public shareholding company will be issued at the end of August. As such, information and statistics concerning these companies will be provided in shorter time compared with previous years.

According to AFM statistics, the AFM market capitalisation at the end of last June was JD3.343 billion while the price earning ratio for all sectors was set at 13.68. As for the trading activity at the AFM, the volume of trade amounted to JD41.8 million during last month. The trading volume during the first half of this year totalled JD136.0 million of which non-Jordanian purchase amounted to JD39.5 million 29 per cent of the total trading volume (J.T.).

Universal Metal Industries Company reports JD165,700 loss

**** THE UNIVERSAL** Metal Industries Company closed 1996 with a JD165,700 loss as a result of sharp competition in the market. The board chairman told the shareholders the company faced great difficulties due to the customs reduction on imported products and keeping unchanged the customs duties on raw material inputs for local production. He said the company sought to enter the Palestinian market to consolidate the marketing efforts but there were obstacles and complexities that the company could not overcome.

The chairman said the company recently bought casts from Taiwan and a new product was launched in the market to counter the similar products imported from East Asia. He added that due to the difficult financial situation, the board decided to sell the "barrels plant" for not being able to operate this second production line.

At the end of 1996, the company's total assets amounted to JD1.1 million of which the current assets totalled JD263,000. Net shareholders' equity totalled JD829,000 compared to JD994,000 at the end of 1995 (Al Ra'i).

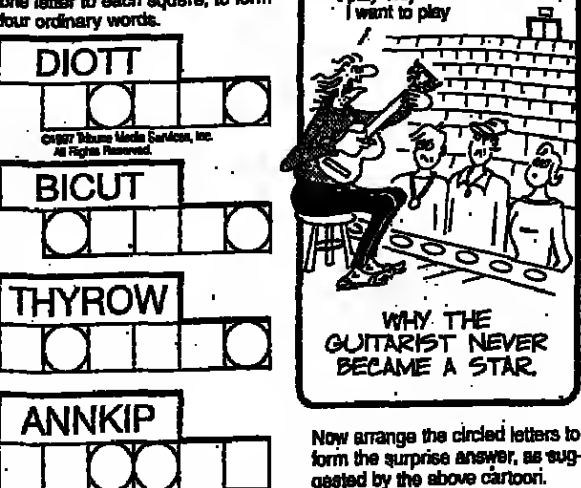
THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



"My husband is still a sexist, but now he's an enlightened, politically correct, '90s kind of sexist."

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Print answer here: HE WAS

Yesterday's Jumbles: CURRY MAUVE TINGLE URCHIN

Answer: What the carpet layers tried to do while they worked - CUT A FLUG

Proposal to set up road maintenance fund to be discussed by government this week

By Tareq Ayyoub
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Cabinet will discuss the establishment of a JD20 million fund to finance renovation works on the Kingdom's roads, Public Works and Housing Minister Nasser Lawzi said Monday.

Mr. Lawzi said the proposal to establish the Road Maintenance Fund (RMF), which was first announced in early June, was the outcome of a recent workshop which included representatives of six countries and a World Bank team who

discussed how to allocate resources to this fund.

"The question was whether to continue spending from the Kingdom's annual budget on road maintenance or to have a defined fund for this purpose," he said.

The minister said the workshop participants suggested channeling the annual budget amount to the fund and add to it by collecting fees from driving licences, road tolls, transit fees and traffic violation fines.

He hinted to the possible introduction of new resources such as adver-

tisements and taxes to help in raising money for the RMF. He did not elaborate.

Mr. Lawzi added that the ministry is allocating about JD14 million from the budget for road renovations.

The proposed fund will have an independent decision-making mechanism through its board of directors that would represent the public and private sectors.

But the implementation of road repair and maintenance would remain in the hands of the ministry, Mr. Lawzi said.

He said the Ministerial Council for Development would discuss whether to approve the proposal in the form of a temporary by-law this week.

Mr. Lawzi said the World Bank would not extend any loan for this project, but its role will focus on "sponsoring some administrative parts such as a feasibility study for the project and experts to work on the project."

"We hope to raise JD20 million for the first year of the project and to increase it in the years ahead," the minister added.

Syrian pharmaceutical industry chiefs visit Iraq

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Syrian pharmaceutical industry leaders arrived here Monday to discuss sales of medicine to Iraq under the U.N. oil-for-food accord, trade officials said.

The delegation arrived with a donation "from the Syrian people" of a refrigerated truck loaded with medicine, mostly for patients suffering from heart disease.

Nael Al Nabolsi, a member of the delegation which

travelled overland to Baghdad, told AFP their talks with the health ministry would focus on "cooperation in the pharmaceutical industry."

The border was opened to businessmen in early June after a 15-year closure, as the two countries ruled by rival wings of the Baath Party edge toward economic cooperation without renewing their diplomatic ties severed in 1980.

Plunging gold prices could force mine closures

LONDON (AFP) — Gold prices melted Monday under pressure from a growing move by central banks to reduce their bullion reserves, provoking fears that producers will have to close their least profitable mines if the market collapses further.

The price of the precious metal plummeted to \$318 per ounce (of 31.103 grammes) on the London bullion market, which was \$6.5 lower than the closing price on Friday.

Gold, at its lowest point since mid-December 1985, has been overwhelmed by a wave of investor selling since the Australian central bank announced late Thursday that it had sold two-thirds of its strategic gold stocks.

This announcement had a "psychological effect" on the market, reinforcing the view that central banks have radically changed their approach to gold stocks, explained Peter Richardson, an analyst from Swiss-owned investment bank SBC Warburg.

Today, central bankers seem increasingly to favour disposing of some of their mountains of gold, in favour of higher-yielding assets like U.S. Japanese or German bonds.

The dangers of inflation seem to have been kept at bay in the richest countries, and gold is losing its traditional role as a safe haven from currency instability.

At the same time, the strength of the U.S. economy has limited the risks of switching reserves from gold to other investments.

The Reserve Bank of Australia's announcement that it had sold a massive 167 tonnes of its 2-47

tonnes of gold holdings in the past six months follows similar (if less dramatic) moves by the Belgian and Dutch central banks.

Traders are afraid that a wave of central bank sales could flood the market with gold.

The decision by the Swiss parliament to allow the Swiss National Bank to manage its own gold reserves — the fifth-largest of any central bank — and to generate profits by lending it has added to fears of a price meltdown.

The worrying backdrop is that the 15 per cent slide in gold prices since the start of the year has severely eaten into producers' profits.

"If prices drop much further, then there will clearly be closure of marginal mines," an expert from GNI trading house said.

At SBC Warburg, Mr. Richardson believes that up to a third or 50 per cent of Western gold production cannot generate a profit at the current price.

Already, the Canadian producer, TVX Gold, has closed one of its mines in Quebec and plans to cease production at the least profitable sites.

The South African mining giants, who extract nearly 30 per cent of the world's gold output, will be less affected than others to begin with, because they operate the most productive mines in the world.

But over time, if prices continue to plunge, the South African groups will have to push through a massive rationalisation of their activities, or even resort to mergers, the SBC Warburg analyst said.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET											
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SWISSBANK											
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR MONDAY 07/07/1997											
PRICE 12 MONTHS HIGH	PRICE 12 MONTHS LOW	COMPANY'S NAME	P / S	QTY.	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE		
269.000	213.000	ARAB BANK	12.1	1.52	15	940	246300	263.00	263.00	-	-
1.340	1.480	JOR. TELECOM. BK.	8.0	0.00	21	12050	24526	2.37	2.06	-	-01-
5.720	4.100	CALIN AMMAN BANK	12.0	2.59	8	4100	23565	5.70	5.80	-	-10+
5.200	4.250	THE HOUSING BK.	14.8	3.92	7	1025	8073	4.95	4.95	-	-
4.180	2.440	JOR. ADWATY BANK	10.7	0.00	68	24990	76559	3.09	3.02	-	-07-
1.050	.780	JOR. CHIF. BANK	5.1	8.24	1	1000	850	.87	.85	-	-02-
4.050	3.480	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	15.3	15.19	25	25619	96319	3.76	3.76	-	-
2.460	1.000	SEIT. AL-PAL (BETTON)	.7	13.16	2	650	739	1.14	1.14	-	-
1.440	1.020	PHILADEL. INV. BK.	.9	0.00	2	67	58	1.02	1.02	-	-
BANK SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 200.07 %CHG: -0.10 151 70454 474457											
4.450	3.800	JEROSALEM INSUR.	10.6	5.13	1	100	390	3.85	3.90	-	-05+
2.350	1.600	JOR. FRENCH INSUR.	4.7	12.05	6	1650	2739	1.66	1.66	-	-
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 113.64 %CHG: +0.13 7 1750 3129											
1.820	1.460	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	8.0	6.06	7	2639	4353	1.65	1.65	-	-
1.840	1.320	TRIN. ELECTRICITY	8.0	6.32	3	307	307	1.38	1.38	-	-
6.100	4.100	ARAB INTL. HOTELS	15.4	4.00	1	150	750	5.20	5.00	-	-20-
2.650	2.090	SHIPPING LINES	15.4	4.91	3	2000	8300	2.65	2.65	-	-
1.400	.930	NAVY. PORTFOLIO	9	0.00	40	15800	21998	1.40	1.38	-	-02-
1.400	.480	JORDAN INTL. TRAD.	25	0.00	1	450	135	.50	.50	-	-
3.720	2.890	ARAB INTL. INV. MDC.	7.7	0.00	5	2187	6428	2.94	2.94	-	-
2.230	1.630	UNITED CO.	8.0	6.55	4	1800	3022	1.68	1.68	-	-
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 107.66 %CHG: -1.14 62 24976 42182											
4.480	3.060	JOR. CREDIT FACT.	27.5	2.70	23	22299	90925	4.09	4.08	-	-01-
4.140	2.710	JOR. PROSPERITY MILES	11.3	2.45	5	25100	101908	4.04	4.08	-	-04+
7.050	4.950	ARAB POTASH CO.	15.5	3.01	6	4000	28575	6.65	6.65	-	-
10.250	9.720	JOR. PETROL. REFINERY	9.5	9.04	6	524	5136	9.80	9.83	-	-03+
3.840	1.650	UNION TRV. CO. INC.	9	0.00	8	15200	2726	1.68	1.68	-	-04-
4.100	1.040	ARAB PHARM. MFG.	10.9	5.08	46	10396	41051	3.98	3.94	-	-04-
1.820	1.350	JOR. PIPES MANFCT.	16.7	5.93	2	500	675	1.35	1.35	-	-
1.530	1.080	RAYA INDUSTRIES	9	0.00	1	100	108	1.08	1.08	-	-
5.650	4.250	JOR. INDUS. TR. INV.	13.0	4.72	7	5800	30765	5.35	5.30	-	-05-
3.850	2.600	ARAB ALUM. IND.	6.0	9.77	2	350	896	2.60	2.56	-	-04-
.960	.450	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	9.7	0.00	5	3350	1541	.46	.46	-	-
.770	.510	NATIONAL INDUS.	9	0.00	5	1050	1556	.51	.51	-	-
1.330	.850	INTERMED. PETRO. CHEM.	9	0.00	45	44700	23308	.52	.52	-	-
2.980	1.800	UNIV. CHEM. INDUS.	15.4	5.85	1	150	297	1.80	1.71	-	-09-
.950	.550	JOR. SULPHUR-CHRM	9	0.00	6	2800	1120	.56	.56	-	-
1.970	1.120	ARAB PHARM. CHEM.	17.5	5.11	2	2150	3760	1.37	1.37	-	-
2.060	1.200	UNIV. WOOD INDUS.	9	.21	9	1750	2129	1.22	1.21	-	-01-
1.520	1.090	JOR. INDUS. RESOURCES	14.7	9.17	6	2700	1853	1.09	1.09	-	-
1.090	.830	JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	15.0	0.00	18	8400	5807	.83	.82	-	-01-
1.130	1.080	INTL. TOBACCO	6.0	0.00	10	10850	11841	1.10	1.09	-	-01-
1.260	.860	UNION CH. & VEG.	39.6	0.00	1	1500	1305	.87	.87	-	-
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 127.76 %CHG: 0.00 214 149595 354220											
GRAND TOTAL INDEX: 161.11 %CHG: -0.11 434 246775 873998											
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR MONDAY 07/07/1997											
.670	.410	JOR. TRADE FAC.	11.7	0.00	10	27100	34396	.45	.44	-	-01-
1.550	1.100	ZARA FOR INVESTMENT	43.9	0.00	3	24400	26108	1.11	1.07	-	-04-
.840	.650	UNION TRV. CO. INC.	9	0.00	8	15200	2726	1.68	1.68	-	-04-
.680	.370	ARAB FIN. INVEST.	9	0.00	23	20700	9349	.46	.45	-	-01-
.950	.720	AL-SHARQ INV. 75%	9	0.00	4	33500	17755	.78	.78	-	-
.950	.610	AL-DAMILLIYAH 75%	60.5	0.00	2	1300	570	.63	.63	-	-
.490	.200	JOR. INDUS. TR. INV.	13.0	0.00	20	25850	7132	.27	.28	-	-01+
.730	.510	ARAB FOOD & MED.	9	0.00	13	12500	6471	.54	.52	-	-02-
.590	.390	ARAB INTL. INV. TRD.	44.9	0.00	2	850	332	.39	.39	-	-
.750	.480	NAVY. MGMT. ENG. MACHCO	9	0.00	39	42986	82192	.54	.54	-	-01-
.960	.500	READY TO GO CONCRETE	11.2	0.00	1	800	744	.95	.93	-	-02-
.640	.430	KAYAKA OZES & NOULDS	9	0.00	1	900	240	.41	.48	-	-03-
.850	.710	JORDAN STEEL	33.9	6.67	19	11941	9018	.75	.75	-	-
.730	.600	KHAYAT 75%	8	0.00	4	2100	768	.62	.62	-	-
1.220	.860	UNION TOBACCO 75%	9	0.00	3	391	124	.91	.90	-	-01-
.680	.550	RAZI PHARM. 85%	8	0.00	1	300	82	.56	.56	-	-02-
.820	.580	RAZI. POULTRY	8	0.00	7	2750	1723	.64	.62	-	-
1.000	.770	WAT. MANUFACTURE 75%	9	0.00	3	1600	780	.77	.77	-	-
.870	.530	KTO. EAST COMPLEX	7.8	15.87	11	9250	8828	.63	.63	-	-
GRAND TOTAL INDEX: 174 223618 124485											

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Yugoslavia remain European basketball champions

BARCELONA (R) — Yugoslavia retained their men's European title on Sunday by outclassing previously unbeaten Italy 61-49 in the final.

In a game dominated by defenders, the Yugoslavs made the best of their scoring chances.

With the defences so clearly in control, the raw talent of the powerful Yugoslav squad won out, particularly in the rebound department.

The Yugoslavs were also able to stem the scoring of Italy's Carlton Myers and Gregor Fucak, who had inflicted a 74-69 defeat on the reigning champions early in the tournament.

Myers scored 17 points and Fucak 12 but no other Italian player could manage more than six.

Italy wasted their first 10 possessions and took nearly seven minutes to clock up their first points, while poor shooting from both teams kept the score at the break down to just 28-23.



The Yugoslav basketball team celebrates with the cup after the end of the final of the European Basketball Championship in Barcelona's Olympic Palau Sant Jordi. Yugoslavia beat Italy 61-49 (Reuters photo)

The Italians pulled up to within just two points after the break, but the Yugoslavs outscored their opponents 13-1 in a crucial burst which took them into a command-

ing 43-29 lead.

The holders snuffed out a brief Italian revival, and with guard Alexander Djordjevic in control, were able to cruise to victory.

Djordjevic, who plays in Spain with Barcelona, was voted Most Valuable Player of the tournament. Russia beat Greece 97-77 in the third place game.

Sampras, Hingis pull away from rivals

LONDON (R) — The class of Pete Sampras and Martina Hingis, the undisputed king and teenage queen of this year's Wimbledon, is serving up an increasing dilemma for the guardians of world tennis.

No-one can possibly dispute the power and athleticism of Sampras or the poise and precocious talent of the 16-year-old Hingis, but a soggy fortnight at the All England Club could not disguise the shallow nature of the opposition.

Three times Wimbledon champion John McEnroe is among those convinced Sampras can break almost every Grand Slam record in the book following his comprehensive 6-4 6-2 6-4 demolition of France's Cedric Pioline, in Sunday's men's final.

Yet McEnroe is also genuinely concerned by the abrupt departure of Boris Becker from major tournament contention and cannot see where the next real challenge to Sampras, except on clay, is coming from.

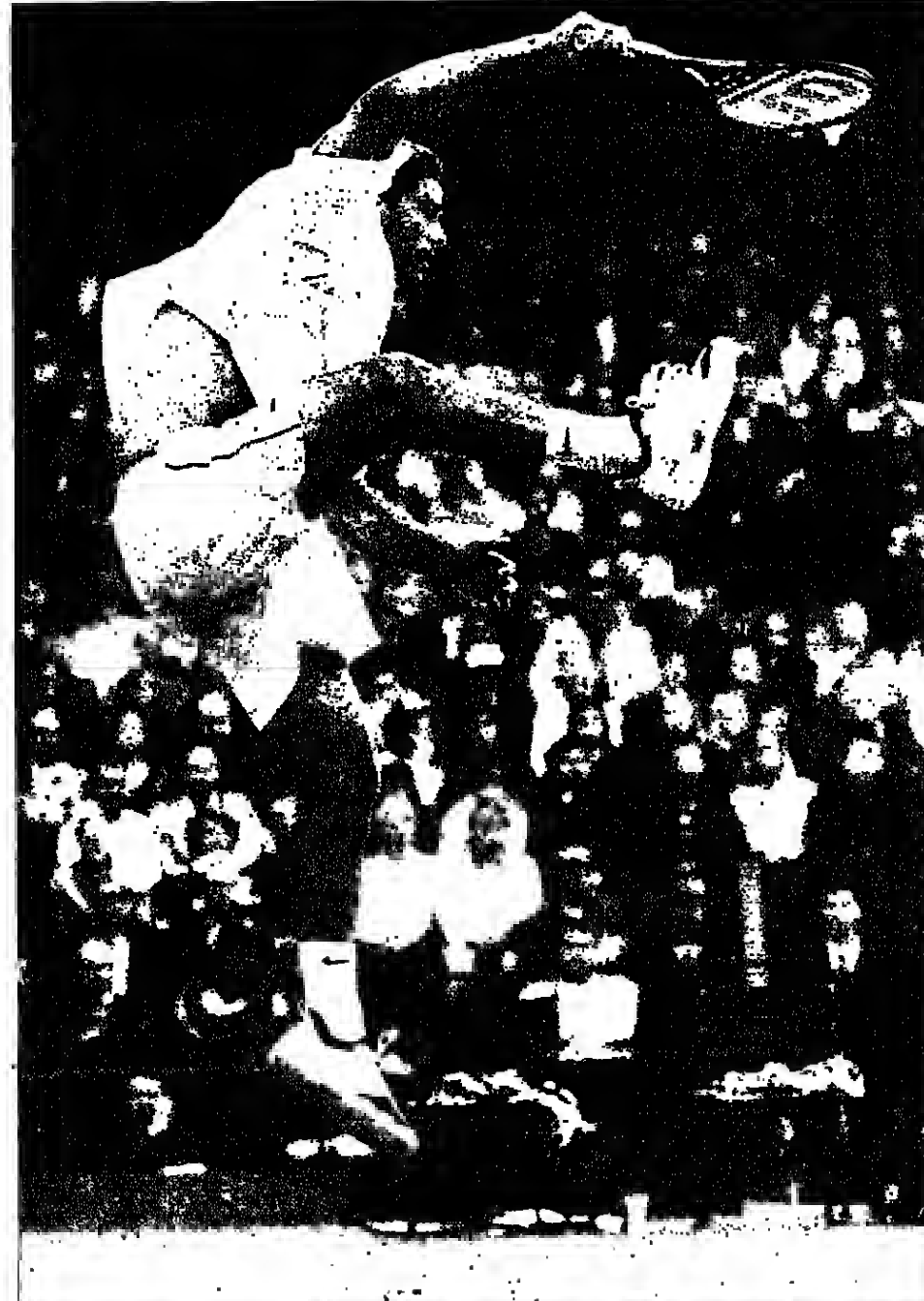
"I feel like I've been punched in the stomach," said McEnroe, reacting to Becker's announcement he has played his last Wimbledon. "I think it's just another blow to the men's game."

"He's the biggest personality we've had in the last 12 years and for him to go at 29 says something about the sport of tennis, that something needs to change."

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The hope is that French Open champion Gustavo Kuerten, and a trio of German hopefuls — Tommy Haas, Nicolas Kiefer and junior sensation Daniel Elsner — may eventually develop into consistent Grand Slam contenders.

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Pete Sampras

"He'll certainly be able to do that," McEnroe predicted. "If he can stay healthy there's no reason why he can't win at least three or four more."

Sampras remains respectful about his peers — "Rod Laver could have won up to 20 titles because he was absent for six years, so it's a bit unfair to compare cras" — and as reluctant as ever to fill the showman role beloved of Connors and McEnroe.

"He's just the guy next door who happens to be a great tennis player," said his coach Paul Annacone. "I think I've got the best job in tennis."

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claim might be Melanie Molitor, Hingis's mother and coach, a significant cog in her daughter's blossoming career.

Saturday's 2-6 6-3 6-3 victory over Jana Novotna was further proof of the steel that lurks beneath Hingis's sweet exterior and, horse-riding accidents permitting, her immediate future appears as cloud-free as Sampras's.

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2nd Division Basketball

Fuheis pull out as matches resume today

By Aileen Bannayan
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — While having their hands full with the national teams currently preparing for the 8th Pan-Arab Games starting July 12, the Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF) is now holding the 1997 second and third division championships with 12 teams taking part.

For the first time, the JBF has joined both division teams together playing in two groups. The top two teams in each group will advance to the final round the winner of which will be promoted to the first division as of the 1998 season.

The rest of the teams will be classified in the second division and the third division will thus be cancelled. JBF Secretary Mohammad Nabil Monday told the Jordan Times that second division teams would be required to register under-16 teams as a prerequisite for participation as of the coming season.

He also said that the JBF had amended the Group A schedule after last year's third division champs Al Fuheis pulled out Sunday.

Their opponents (Homentmen) are considered the winner of that match and we have amended the schedule to have 5 teams in that group. They will be fined JD200 according to regulations," he explained.

Group A includes last year's 2nd division runner up Al Jeel, Abu

Nusair, Homentmen and newcomers Al Wihdat and Shihab.

Group B includes Gazet Hashem, Al Raya, Qamim, Ebbin, Sama and Al Ashrafieh.

Group A includes mostly teams from the capital who seem to have the better chance of winning the competition.

Homentmen were formerly in the first division and have the most experienced yet inconsistent lineup who won the second division when ever they were relegated except for the past two years when Al Yarmouk and Al Hussein replaced them atop

the second division and were promoted.

Abu Nusair, Gazet Hashem, Al Jeel are expected to be also strong contenders for the sole qualifying berth to the First Division which now includes Jazreh, Alil, Orthodoxi, Jalil who will be joined by Hussein and this year's newly promoted team. Al Wazani and Yarmouk were relegated to the second division this year.

Four matches are scheduled for Tuesday in Irbid's Al Hassan Sports City and Amman's JBF court.

Group A

TEAM	P	W	L	SE	SA	PTS
Al Jeel	1	1	-	71	60	2
Abu Nusair	1	1	-	74	32	2
Homentmen	1	1	-	20	0	2
Shihab	1	1	-	32	74	1
Wihdat	1	1	-	60	71	1
*Fuheis						

*pulled-out of competition

Group B

TEAM	P	W	L	SE	SA	PTS
Raya	1	1	-	55	32	2
G. Hashem	1	1	-	43	19	2
Ashrafieh	1	1	-	39	30	2
Qamim	1	1	-	32	55	1
Sama	1	1	-	19	43	1
Ebbin	1	1	-	30	39	1

Ecuador's World Cup chances suffer severe blow

MARACAIBO, Venezuela (R) —

Ecuador's chances of a first World Cup finals appearance were dealt a severe blow Sunday when they were held to a 1-1 draw by lightweights Venezuela.

Ecuador had been counting on maximum points in their South American qualifier against a team who had only collected two points from their previous 11 qualifying matches.

But after taking a 55th-minute lead through Ivan Hurtado, Ecuador saw victory slip from the grasp when substitute Gabriel Miranda equalised eight minutes from the end.

The result, in a match between the only South American countries never to have played at the World Cup finals, left Ecuador fifth in the single South American World Cup qualifying group with 15 points from 12 games.

They are one point behind fourth-placed Chile, who have played a game less.

"We expected more. We expected to win. The situation has become more complicated with this result and with the points we lost before," said Ecuador's Colombian coach Francisco Marurana.

"But while there's a chance, we must keep on fighting."



The Australian doubles team of Todd Woodbridge (L) and Mark Woodforde hold their trophies after beating Paul Haarhuis and Jacco Eltingh of the Netherlands the men's final at the Wimbledon tennis championships. Woodforde and Woodbridge won 7-6 7-6 5-7 6-3 to claim a record setting fifth consecutive Wimbledon men's doubles title (Reuters photo)

Woodies chalk up record-equalling doubles win

LONDON (AFP) — Australian top-seeds Todd Woodbridge and Mark Woodforde chalked up a record-equalling fifth consecutive men's doubles title win at Wimbledon on Sunday when they beat second-seeded Dutch opponents Jacco Eltingh and Paul Haarhuis 7-6 (7/4), 7-6 (9/7), 5-7, 6-3 in just under three hours on the centre-court.

The victory means that the Australian duo have now matched the record of five straight-wins set by Britain's Laurie and Reggie Doherty from 1897 to 1901.

The win also puts them level with Sergio Casal and Emilio Sanchez with 44 career titles.

The only teams to win more tournaments in the Open era were Peter Fleming and John McEnroe of the United States, and South Africans Bob Hewitt and Frew McMillan. Both teams scored 57 tournament wins.

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The hope is that French Open champion Gustavo Kuerten, and a trio of German hopefuls — Tommy Haas, Nicolas Kiefer and junior sensation Daniel Elsner — may eventually develop into consistent Grand Slam contenders.

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claim might be Melanie Molitor, Hingis's mother and coach, a significant cog in her daughter's blossoming career.

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best, but the 16-year-old Russian's 6-3 6-2 semifinal defeat to Hingis suggested there is a long way to go. Venus Williams, similarly, is still orbiting outside the inner sanctum.

As for the rest, save Britons Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski, Australia's over-worked Todd Woodbridge and assorted umbrella salesmen, the 11th championships will chiefly be remembered for what fell from the heavens rather than a deluge of divine tennis.

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Blue Jays blank Yankees

TORONTO (R) — Roger Clemens finished off a sensational first half of the season in style Sunday by becoming the Major League's first 13-game winner on a four-hit shutout as the Blue Jays blanked the New York Yankees 2-0.

Clemens (13-3) recorded his 39th career shutout and lowered his league-leading ERA to 1.69 against the suddenly anemic World Series champions.

"I wanted to come out and be aggressive in the zone and try to pour it on once the guys get a couple of runs," said Clemens, who struck out 10 Yankees.

Clemens, who joined Toronto this year as a free agent, had his fifth complete game this season in shutting down New York, who were shut out for the third time in their last five games.

"You have to credit the pitchers," said Yankees manager Joe Torre. "Good pitching will always stop good hitting."

Atlanta's Greg Maddux pitched a three-hitter in a 2-0 win at New York Wednesday and Juan Guzman and Kelvin Escobar combined on a two-hitter in Toronto's 1-0 win on Friday.

The Blue Jays scored both of their runs in the second inning off New York's Ramiro Mendoza (3-4), with



Seattle Mariners Jay Buhner is tagged out by Anaheim Angels catcher Todd Greene at the plate in the second inning. Buhner was trying to score from first base on a double by teammate Dan Wilson (Reuters photo)

Shawn Green's RBI double the key blow.

In Anaheim, Chuck Finley tossed a four-hitter for his first shutout of the season and Dave Hollins crushed a Grand Slam as the Anaheim Angels routed the Seattle Mariners 8-0.

Finley (5-6), bouncing back from injury woes, walked three and struck out a season-high 13 to improve to 16-7 in his career against the powerful, west division leading Seattle.

Hollins' grand-slam, his 11th homer of the season, was one of only two Anaheim hits in their five-run fourth inning.

Jeff Fassero, who left the game after spraining his ankle fielding a bunt in the fourth, dropped to 8-5.

In Detroit, the Tigers finished the first half on a rousing note, outslugging the league-leading Baltimore Orioles 14-9 in the rubber game of a five-game series.

In Cleveland, the Kansas

City Royals scored seven runs in the fourth inning but that wasn't good enough to snap their losing streak as the Indians rallied back for an 8-7 victory.

Marquis Grissom's two-out single in the eighth scored Omar Vizquel with the go-ahead run as the Cleveland bullpen allowed the Royals just one hit over the last 5 1/3 innings.

Kansas City scored seven in the fourth, sparked by a three-run double from Scott Cooper, for a 7-4 lead, but the Indians tied it in their half of the fourth. Grissom's clutch hit extended the Royals' slide to eight straight.

Cleveland's Sandy Alomar stretched his hitting streak to 30 games with an infield single in the second. He is one game away from tying nap Lajoie's 1906 club record.

In Chicago, Frank Thomas had a two-run double and Albert Belle added a pair of hits and an RBI as the Chicago White Sox beat the Boston

Red Sox 6-5 for their third straight win.

In Milwaukee, Dave Nilsson, Marc Newfield, and Jose Valentin smacked consecutive RBI doubles in a five-run third inning and Ben McDonald posted his first win in over a month as the Milwaukee Brewers stopped the Minnesota Twins 6-2.

At Texas, Tony Batista and Jose Canseco both hit three-run homers to power the Oakland Athletics past the Rangers 9-8.

With the score tied at five entering the top of the sixth, Scott Brosius singled and Williams reached on a fielding error by Matt Whiteide (1-1). Batista then belted a 3-1 pitch over the left-field wall for his fourth homer and an 8-5 advantage.

Oakland reliever Aaron Small was tagged for three runs in the eighth, including a two-run homer by rusty Greer, but closer Billy Taylor came on to record the final five outs for his 16th save.

World's top players answer Fed Cup call

Hingis leads Swiss as Germans miss Graf

LONDON (AFP) — Fifteen of the world's top-20 ranked women's players have answered their country's call and will report for Fed Cup action at the weekend.

Wimbledon finalist Jana Novotna re-adapted back to clay in Prague after her exertions on the grass courts of the All England Club to spearhead the Czech Republic's bid to reach the elite World Group final.

The Czechs will be facing the Netherlands in Prague and the 28-year-old Novotna, who has reached a career-high number-two in the rankings, will be backed up by Adriana Gersi, Sandra Kleinova and Eva Martinova.

The Dutch, who scored an upset victory over the United States in their opening round World Group clash, will be basing their challenge around the big-serving of Brenda Schultz-McCarthy.

Schultz-McCarthy, a semi-finalist at Eastbourne, will have had time to rest for the tie since she was a third-round Wimbledon victim of Belgium's Sabine Appelmans.

Other members of the Dutch team are Miriam Oremans, Kristie Boogert and Manon Bollegraf.

In the other semi-final,



Jana Novotna

which will also be played in clay, Yannick Noah will be hoping he can continue to inspire his players in his first campaign as captain of the French team.

France, who defeated Japan in the first round, play Belgium who have called up Appelmans, Dominique Van Roost, Els Callens and Laurence Courtois.

The Belgians, like their Dutch neighbours, pulled off a major surprise in the first round when they defeated Spain — four-times champions since 1990.

Spain, again led by Wimbledon semi-finalist Arantxa Sanchez Vicario but without Conchita Martinez now face a tough clash against Australia in Hope Island, Queensland in one of the world group and Group Two play-offs.

On paper Spain, who are led by captain Miguel Margets, start favourites. Sanchez Vicario (6), Virginia Ruano Pascual (54) and Maria Antonia Sanchez (71) are ranked higher than their Australian opponents — Annabel Ellwood (58), Kerry-Anne Guse (78),

Rachel McQuillan (126) and Kristine Kunce (105) who have been called up by captain John Newcombe.

In the other play-offs, newly-crowned Wimbledon champion Martina Hingis will be joined by Patty Schyder and Emanuele Gagliardi in Zurich as Switzerland try to win promotion in the World Group against Argentina, whose team is made up of Florencia Labat, Maria Jose Gaidano, Mercedes Paz and Laura Montalvo.

Germany, sadly missing Steffi Graf who is recovering after a knee operation, take on Croatia in Frankfurt.

The German team is Anke Huber, Barbara Rittner, Andrea Glass and Meike Babel and they should prove too strong for the visitors — although Croatians have recent French open winner Iva Majoli alongside Sijka Talaja, Maja Muric and Mirjana Lucic.

And the United States face a far from easy home match against Japan — although team captain Martina Navratilova can count on the presence of Olympic champion Lindsay Davenport, Mary Joe Fernandez, Kimberly Po and Lisa Raymond.

The Japanese team are Ai Sugiyama, Naoko Sawamatsu, Naoko Kijimuta and Nana Miyagi.

Guillen sinks Cards as Pirates cruise to victory

ST LOUIS (R) — Jose Guillen blasted a three-run homer as the Pittsburgh Pirates sank the St. Louis Cardinals 6-3 for a clean sweep of their four-game series that ran the Bucs' blistering win streak to seven games.

Guillen cracked his seventh home run of the season in the second inning off Todd Stottlemyre (7-6), giving the Pirates a 3-1 lead and sending them on the way to their sixth win over the Cardinals in eight meetings this season.

"He served up a good pitch," said Guillen, evaluating the offering from a hitter's perspective. "A fastball right down the middle. I made a good swing and that's the game."

Steve Cooke (7-9) yielded two runs as he scattered seven hits, walking four and striking out four, in seven innings.

"My game plan is all about keeping the other players off balance," Cooke said. "Having them not really know what's coming up to the plate. I was able to do that and keep the ball down."

The Pirates, one of baseball's lowest budget teams, improved to 43-43 and maintained a one-game lead over Houston atop the National League central division. St. Louis slid to two games back.

"They beat us in every aspect of the game," Cardinals manager Tony La Russa said. "They've done that for the past three games."

In Houston, Tony Eusebio's pinch-hit single with one out in the ninth inning scored Derek Bell with the winning run as the Houston Astros edged the Cincinnati Reds 6-5.

Pinch-hitting for Bobby Abreu, Derek Bell beat out a slow bouncer to third. Brad Ausmus followed with a single off Mike Remlinger (3-4) to nudge advancing Bell to third. Scott Sullivan relieved Remlinger and Eusebio, pinch-hitting for Tim Bogar, ripped an 0-1 single up the middle for the winning run.

"Today was my day," said Eusebio. "I got a fastball down and in. I got the pitch I was looking for and hit it."

Billy Wagner (5-3) pitched a perfect ninth for the win. Jeff Bagwell hit two homers for the Astros.

In San Diego, Tom Candiotti allowed one run over 7

1/3 innings as the Los Angeles Dodgers defeated the San Diego Padres 5-2 to sweep their three-game series and extend their winning streak to six games.

Brett Butler provided the key blow, stroking a two-run single in the fourth San Diego starter Sean Bergman to give the Dodgers a 4-0 lead.

In New York, Carl Everett's single to right field scored Alex Ochoa with the winning run in the bottom of the 12th inning as the New York Mets defeated the Florida Marlins 3-2, taking the final three games of their four-game series.

Ochoa reached second base when Marlins right fielder Gary Sheffield muffed his drifting fly ball in shallow right-center field. Everett then slashed a 1-1 pitch from Dennis Cook (1-2) into right field, scoring Ochoa easily.

Juan Acevedo (1-0) won in relief.

The Mets head to the all-star break at 48-38, eight games better than at this point last season. The three wins over the Marlins pulled them within two games of the NL wild-card spot.

The Marlins move into the break at 50-36, 10 games better than their record in 1996.

In San Francisco, Mark Gardner combined with three relievers on a five-hitter and the San Francisco Giants used a four-run first inning to hand the Colorado Rockies their sixth straight loss, 7-0.

Gardner (9-4) allowed five hits in six innings with nine strikeouts. John Johnstone, Jim Poole and Doug Henry combined for three hitless innings as the Giants posted 13 strikeouts.

The Giants won their fourth straight game, improving to 15 games over .500 at 51-36, and lead the Dodgers in the National League west by six games.

In Montreal, Jeff Juden pitched a six-hitter for his sixth straight win and Vladimir Guerrero homered and drove in three runs as the Montreal Expos snapped a four-game skid with a 6-2 victory over the Atlanta Braves.

Juden (11-2) walked one and struck out 11 as the Expos ended a five-game home losing streak and defeated Atlanta for the first

time in eight meetings this year.

"It feels pretty good, I'm happy the guys have been playing great," said Juden.

Braves starter Denny Neagle (12-2), who had won his last five decisions, gave up four runs — three earned — in losing for the first time since May 25.

In Philadelphia, Mark Grace hit his 100th career homer and drove in four runs and pitcher Frank Castillo added two hits and an RBI as

the Chicago Cubs dealt the Philadelphia Phillies their 20th loss in 22 games, 8-4.

Grace, who missed three games with a sore right ankle, became the 17th player in Cubs' history to reach the 100-homer mark when he hit a two-run blast off Mark Leiter (4-9) in the top of the first inning. Grace also delivered a two-run single in a four-run fourth that extended Chicago's lead to 7-0.

Castillo (6-9) took the win.

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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q. 1 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:

AA5 CA88 07623 410554

The bidding has proceeded:

NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST

1a Pass INT Pass

2c Pass 7c Pass

What do you bid now?

A - Partner's jump shift was forcing, so we know you were not thinking of passing. Or, for that matter, bidding three no trump without a stopper in either minor. If partner has five hearts, raising to four hearts would be right, but North might have only four. The way to find out is with a false preference to three spades, and wait to hear what partner does next.

Q. 2 - Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

AS 0A3 0AK52 4AKQJ43

The bidding has proceeded:

EAST SOUTH WEST NORTH

1a Dbl 2a Pass

What action do you take?

A - If you elect to double, don't be surprised if the opponents wrap up their contract. Your side has the balance of power, so East must have a highly distributional hand to leap to the spade game. Bid five clubs. You don't need much from partner to make it, and if you are defeated it won't be expensive.

Q. 3 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:

4J 108 075 0Q9542 4854

The bidding has proceeded:

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH

1c Dbl 2a Pass 7c

What do you bid now?

A - Partner's double asks for your best suit, and there is no reason why you should not obey. (If you thought of bidding either one no trump or converting to penalties by passing, get a bidding primer now!) Bid one spade.

Q. 4 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:

AK109 CAKQJW75 0ER 48

The bidding has proceeded:

NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST

1a Pass 7c Pass

What do you bid now?

A - We are prepared to play slam in hearts if partner has sufficient aces. The way to find out is to inquire by jumping to four no trump. Bid six hearts if partner shows two aces, and we would take our chances with a grand slam should partner show all three missing aces. If necessary, you might be able to develop the club suit for the fulfilling trick.

Q. 5 - Both vulnerable as South you hold:

45 0E83 0AQ109784 444

The bidding has proceeded:

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH

1c Pass 1a Pass 7c

What action do you take?

A - You have a hand rich in playing tricks but the high-card count is not enough for you to double first, and then bid your suit. Overcall two diamonds. To enter a live auction, vulnerable, at the two-level when both opponents are bidding and partner has passed takes a good hand. Unless partner can act over two diamonds, you are going nowhere.

Q. 6 - Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

4A5 0762 CAKQJ93 4A5

The bidding has proceeded:

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH

1c Pass 1a Pass 7c

What action do you take?

A - You have eight tricks in your hand. Our suggestion is that you jump to three no trump. On a good day partner will have a black-suit king or something which will produce a ninth trick.



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Christians angry over Virgin Mary depiction

TEL AVIV (AP) — An Israeli magazine illustration showing Mary, the mother of Jesus, with the head of a cow has triggered angry responses from Christians and Muslims at a time when religious tensions in the Holy Land are already running high.

The publisher of the Israeli science periodical Galileo on Monday apologized to Palestinian Christians and Muslims for the picture that ran in April with two articles about cloning.

Jerusalem patriarch Michel Sabbah, the chief Roman Catholic clergyman in the Holy Land, said Monday the drawing was offensive. "We condemn it because we cannot understand that the magazine officials can be so naive to offend religious icons," Reverend Sabbah told the Associated Press.

However, Rev. Sabbah

accepted the apology, saying he didn't believe the magazine acted with malice. "We believe they have done it out of ignorance," he said.

Muslims who also revere Mary reacted more angrily.

Muslim clerics linked the Galileo illustration to a drawing of the Prophet Muhammad as a pig that was distributed last month by a Jewish extremist in the West Bank town of Hebron. Palestinian officials in the city have also claimed that Israeli troops desecrated several copies of the Koran, the Muslim Holy Book, during a raid of a Hebron elementary school last week.

"It is another crime to be added to the Jews' crimes in the attack against the Prophet Muhammad and the great Koran," said a statement by Muslim clerics and scholars.

Yasser Arafat's spokesman, Nabil Abourdenah,

said he believed the illustration was part of an organized campaign. "We blame the Israeli government for all these provocations and crimes," Mr. Abourdenah told the Palestinian daily Al Hayat.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in a statement that he was sorry about the Galileo illustration. "I am deeply sorry about the hurt that the publication of such a picture has inflicted on people of the Christian faith," Mr. Netanyahu said in the statement, according to the Jerusalem Post daily.

Stephan Savitsky, the publisher of Galileo, said the magazine made a mistake. "Our choice of illustration was very poor," Mr. Savitsky said Monday. "It was done in an innocent way, but it showed that we were not sensitive enough."



LETTING LOOSE THE PEOPLE: A runner leads two fighting bulls through the cobble stone streets of the city Monday in the first "encierro", or running of the bulls, in the famed San Fermín fiesta. The week-long fiesta, notorious for its drinking and jubilant spirits and popularised by Ernest Hemingway's 1926 novel *The Sun Also Rises*, attracts thousands of foreigners each year to this city in northern Spain where bulls are let loose each morning to run through the city streets. At least two runners were reported injured in the run on Monday morning (Reuters photo)

Hamas militant given 46 life sentences for suicide attacks

BEIT EL (AFP) — An Israeli military court Monday handed down 46 life sentences to a Palestinian Islamist militant convicted of planning three suicide bombings in Israel last year.

Hassan Salameh, a member of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), was convicted on June 30 of planning the attacks in February and March last year which left 46 people dead and helped derail the Middle East peace process.

Military prosecutors had demanded 46 life sentences, as only those convicted of Nazi war crimes can face the death penalty in Israel.

One judge had nevertheless pleaded in favour of capital punishment, but he was overruled by his two colleagues, court sources said.

"We estimate that the punishment of an eye for an eye or a tooth for a tooth is

a punishment above our powers to carry out," said Colonel Ilan Katz, one of the judges, reading the court's ruling.

"The murderous acts ... were carried out after the peace process began in our region. The accused carried out his acts not in order to protect the rights of Palestinians, as he said, but instead to ruin the process," said Mr. Katz.

The judge said the court's ruling was a message to "those who follow him and try to stop the process of reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians by means of torn corpses that they will stay in jail until their last days."

Mr. Salameh, 26, from Khan Yunis in the Gaza Strip, was sporting a brown beard and a neatly-trimmed beard as he was brought manacled into court.

He smiled briefly at journalists, but stood impassively looking at the judges as the sentence was read

out.

In addition to the life sentences, given for "premeditated manslaughter" as Salameh did not carry out the attacks himself, the court sentenced him to 20 years in jail for being a member of and carrying out activities for a banned organisation.

Mr. Katz said the life sentences were justified to protect the population of Israel, adding that a "oew peak" of violence had been reached with the suicide bombings.

Hamas said the three attacks, including two against buses in Jerusalem, were in retaliation for the assassination of one of its military leaders in the Gaza Strip in January last year.

The three attacks, together with a fourth attack carried out by Islamic Jihad in Tel Aviv which killed 12 people, were largely blamed for turning the Israeli population against the peace policies of the

Labour government.

Three months later right-winger Benjamin Netanyahu pushed Labour out of power in general elections on a headline platform stressing Israel's security needs.

Salameh's court-appointed lawyer Jawad Bulos said he accepted the court's decision.

"It's a long sentence that takes into consideration all the angles of the issue and it is a sentence that I accept," he said. "It is a sentence expected ... considering that he confessed to the acts in court."

Salameh, who was captured last year in Hebron, has throughout the trial rejected the court's right to judge him.

Both Hamas and Islamic Jihad are fiercely opposed to the Oslo peace accords agreed by PNA leader Yasser Arafat and the Israelis in 1993 which allow for limited Palestinian autonomy.

Storm erupts over call for kibbutzim to be destroyed

TEL AVIV (AFP) — An Orthodox Jewish newspaper has caused a storm by calling for kibbutzim, the collective farms at the heart of the Zionist vision of Israel's founding fathers, to wipe off the face of the earth.

"The correct way is to wipe out the last memory of this accident in the history of the Jewish people," said a columnist in the Kol Hashavua weekly.

The columnist wrote that "contrary to the legend they propagate, those living in kibbutzim do not work very much, exploit local workers, take up land they have been given for free and milk the state for money."

The paper's editor, Asher Zuckerman, defended the article, saying that "Israel's

270 kibbutzim have stolen more than five billion dollars from the Jewish people," an allusion to the huge debts run up by the collectives in the past.

But Avshalom Vilan, secretary general of the Kibbutz Ha'arzi Federation, described the article as "scandalous" and launched a verbal volley against the country's ultra-Orthodox community.

The author of the article "represents a sector which is parasitic, does not work for its livelihood and does not participate in the country's defence," Mr. Vilan told the Jerusalem Post daily.

Most ultra-Orthodox Jews are exempt from compulsory military service so that they can devote themselves

to religious study at Talmudic institutes.

The secretary general of the United Kibbutz Movement accused Kol Hashavua of "fanning the flames of intolerance and hostility between religious and secular Jews."

Yossi Sarid, leader of the left-wing Meretz Party, has called on Attorney General Eliakim Rubinstein to start criminal proceedings against the paper for stirring up hatred and intolerance.

Right-wing religious parties won an unprecedented 23 seats in the 120-seat Knesset in last May's elections, and they hold three ministries. Their leaders are currently implicated in a huge housing scam in Jerusalem.

Iraq takes steps to end illegal money lending

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq's Revolutionary Command Council announced Monday that it planned to put a stop to illegal money lending.

The council said it would impose a penalty of "no less than three years in prison" for anyone convicted of lending money at an interest rate in excess of the rate at state-run banks.

Illegal lenders — many of whom operate out of their homes or back-room offices — have been known to charge 100 per cent interest per year on loans.

Government-run banks, which lend only for commercial purposes, charge about 14 per cent a year. It is not known how many people resort to illegal lenders for money. But the

number is believed to have risen sharply since the U.N. Security Council imposed sanctions on Iraq after its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

The sanctions bar Iraq from selling oil, its economic mainstay, until it has complied with U.N. resolutions calling for the elimination of its weapons of mass destruction.

The sanctions have hit the economy hard, and the U.N. has approved \$4 billion in limited oil sales to allow Iraq to buy needed food and medicine for its people.

Some people are forced to seek out money lenders to get funds for food and medicine, or to pay for hospitalisation or car repair.

Many put the deeds to their homes, their car papers or their dowry gold as collateral, often forfeiting the property when they can't pay off the loan and usurious interest.

In addition to setting a minimum three-year prison term for conviction for illegal lending, the council also decreed that repeat offenders will face minimum 10-year prison terms.

The official Iraqi News Agency said the council also announced that a special fund to be known as the "poor box" will be established at the Labour and Social Affairs Ministry for money confiscated from convicted illegal lenders. The proceeds, it said, will be distributed to the poor.

Just before Madrid summit, NATO members still disagree over dollars

BRUSSELS (AFP) — When NATO debates membership for Eastern European states at its upcoming summit in Madrid one crucial factor will be missing — the cost.

Members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) have not been able to agree on even an estimated cost of expanding the defence alliance.

In the run-up to the summit on July 8 and 9, member states have done their own sums, but the results are contradictory.

The United States, which contributes the most cash to NATO, kicked off the debate in February, putting the cost of expansion, in a report to Congress, at between \$27 and \$5 billion over ten years — without saying how many new countries would be invited to join.

The figures were criticised immediately as a deliberate under-estimation aimed at winning over U.S. deputies to the idea of enlargement.

NATO carried out its own study based on the inclusion of one large state, such as Poland or Romania, and one small, such as Hungary or Slovenia.

It put the cost at several hundreds of millions of dollars for each category or less than \$5 billion over ten years if NATO agreed in Madrid to include five new countries — Poland, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania and Slovenia.

The report took into account only those costs to be born by the current 16-member states. It did not include the cost to new members of upgrading and making compatible their

defence systems.

The U.S. report, on the other hand, did include those costs. But even taking that into account, the difference between the two estimates remains huge.

Experts say cost is one reason why U.S. President Bill Clinton — with only mild congressional support for enlargement — has not sought to expand a new member list beyond the three nations whose inclusion everyone supports: Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic.

Italy retorted that without its neighbour Slovenia, Hungary would be geographically isolated from other member states, adding to the alliance's costs.

In June, NATO defence ministers postponed their response on the cost of enlargement until December, agreeing to undertake a deeper analysis.

But as one NATO official put it: "It's impossible to know how much enlargement will cost before we know how many countries are going to join."

The redistribution of costs between existing members and the contribution to NATO of new members is also still to be decided.

In Eastern Europe, meanwhile, a similar debate is raging. In Hungary, a high-ranking military official estimates joining NATO will cost his country \$157 million a year for 10 years.

In Poland, one defence organisation said it would cost \$84 million a year just to bring the Polish army into line with NATO norms.

NATO's annual global budget is around \$2 billion.

Japanese Red Army court trial resumes in Lebanon

BEIRUT (AFP) — The trial of five ageing members of the Japanese Red Army extremist group arrested in Lebanon on forgery charges resumed Monday for a final session during which a date for a verdict is expected to be set.

The criminal court is due to hear the final arguments from five defence attorneys, including opposition MP Najah Wakim, before setting a date for a verdict which can be appealed.

Security was tight at the courtroom in the heavily-guarded Palace of Justice and photographers were banned from taking pictures of the five defendants, who appeared calm and relaxed.

Kozo Okamoto, 49, Kazuo Tohira, 44, Haro Wako, 48, Masao Adachi, 57, and Mariko Yamamoto, 56, the lone woman defendant, are charged with falsifying documents, using false passports and illegally entering and residing in Lebanon. They face sentences of at least seven years in jail if convicted.

They have not been charged, however, with any offences relating to their membership of the Japanese Red Army, which carried out a string of bloody terrorist attacks in Asia, Europe and the Middle East in the 1970s and 1980s.

Court accepts brother's right to decide if Britons are to die

RIYADH (AFP) — Two British nurses on trial for killing an Australian colleague suffered a setback on Monday as a Saudi court ruled that the victim's brother could decide whether to spare their lives if they are convicted.

Defence lawyer Anwar Bakhurji said the court in the eastern city of Khobar recognised that brother Frank Gilford who has taken a hard line was speaking on behalf of the victim's family.

It accepted a power of attorney from victim Yvonne Gilford's mother to the brother, he told AFP. "The court found the documents and papers enough."

The latest hearing in the closed-door trial which opened on May 19 followed two adjournments to allow lawyers for the Gilford family in Australia to nail down

the claim of Mr. Gilford. Under Islamic law, the victim's family has the right to grant mercy and accept a financial settlement, saving the killers of their relatives from being beheaded for premeditated murder.

Mr. Gilford has so far refused to consider mercy for the British nurses, Lucille McLaughlin and Deborah Parry, if they are found guilty of killing their colleague.

The issue of the family's rights had to be established before a verdict on the killing itself, Mr. Bakhurji said a date was not set for the next hearing.

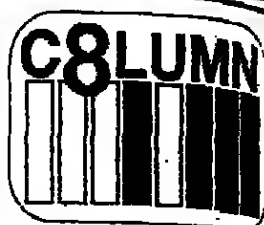
Yvonne Gilford was found dead on December 11 in a hospital dormitory of Dhahran, near Khobar. She had been stabbed 13 times — including in the heart, both lungs and the kidney —

battered and suffocated. Because Yvonne Gilford's 85-year-old mother Muriel is in a nursing home suffering from Alzheimer's disease, the Saudi court at first rejected a power of attorney she granted to Mr. Gilford three years ago, legal sources said.

But lawyers for the Gilford family insisted the brother was also speaking on behalf of his mother, the only other surviving immediate blood relative of 55-year-old Yvonne.

Mr. Gilford has declined offers to meet the families of the Britons and said he would not consider the option of a reconciliation before the court gives its verdict.

The nurses have retracted confessions which they said were extracted under duress and by promises of plane tickets out of Saudi Arabia.



Human body parts may be latest Paris couture craze

PARIS (R) — The autumn-winter haute couture season opened in Paris amid a

furor over a report that Mooday's Givenchy collection by British designer Alexander McQueen will contain human body parts.

McQueen, who was hired by Givenchy in October, is recycling bits of human bone, teeth and other body parts in the house's couture collection, according to the Sunday Times of London.

Givenchy spokesman Eric Lanuit denied the police had received a complaint about the new collection, but refused to comment when asked whether the clothes included human bones, whether real or fake.

Instead, he urged a reporter to see the Givenchy show when it is unveiled Monday, ironically, at a Paris medical school.

China airline names plane after handover

BEIJING (R) — A Chinese airline has named one of its new passenger planes

"Return of Hong Kong" to commemorate the return of the former British colony to Chinese rule on July 1, the People's Daily overseas edition said on Monday.

The 320 Airbus was turned over to its owner — Southern Airlines — last week, shortly after the handover of Hong Kong. Airbus painted the new plane free of charge and held a special flight delivery and handover celebration, it said. The plane would be used by Southern Airlines on routes between the southern city

Guangzhou and the southern western cities of Guilin and Kunming, it said.

Wild party kicks off Pamplona bull-run festival

PAMPLONA (R) — While fireworks and the cry "Viva San Fermín," tens of thousands of bullfighting enthusiasts cheered wildly and drenched each other in

champagne at the official opening of Pamplona's running of the bulls, "Viva San Fermín" shouted Pamplona Mayor Javier Chaurruarri as he set off a small rocket in a ceremony marking the start of the world-famous festival.

honouring the city's Patron Saint San Fermín. Bands blared under red, green and white flags and banners proclaiming support for Basque Nationalism and even the Basque separatist guerrilla group ETA. The nine-day

Bacchanalia, where runners risk life and limb to dodge a charging half-tonne bull, was made famous by American author Ernest Hemingway in his 1926 novel "The Sun Also Rises" and has since drawn crowds of tourists as well as locals.

Warsaw amusement park aid Jackson's return to childhood

WARSAW (AP) — Michael Jackson may realise his "dream of returning to the world of childhood" at an old Polish military airport. The king of pop wants to build a \$100 million amusement park at the old Bemowo Airport in northeast Warsaw. "We are treating it as a serious proposal, especially since there is no big amusement park in Warsaw or even in this part of Europe," said City Council spokeswoman Jolanta Kalka, noting that the project is a long way from being approved. Last week, two of Jackson's representatives came to inspect the airport, where 100,000 fans heard him give his first

Polish concert September. Jackson said during a visit in May he wanted to build the amusement park to make real his "dream of returning to the world of childhood."

Eight people were killed and 27 injured, including a road collector, in a crash involving a truck and a car on a highway near the town of Jolanta Kalka, noting that the project is a long way from being approved. Last week, two of Jackson's representatives came to inspect the airport, where 100,000 fans heard him give his first

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